INSIDE TODAY'S SECTION TWO

In the ring with the hard man of books

The battle for the memory of Hendrix



Fayed plans own political party

£23m earmarked to fight election

CHRIS BLACKHURST Vestminster Correspondent

Mohamed at-Fayed, the owner of Harrods, is drawing up secret plans to form a new political party and has earmarked £23m to field candidates at the next general election.

Under the working title, The Reform Party, Mr Fayed is planning to enter the next election on a constitutional reforming platform, calling for a Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information Act and an elected replacement for the House of Lords. Other key points on the Fayed agenda are a slimmeddown publicly-funded monarchy, referendums on devolution for Scotland and Wales and taking utilities back into the publie sector.

His move comes hard on the heels of the launch by another tycoon, Sir James Goldsmith, of his Referendum Party. Exactly what Mr Fayed hopes to achieve by fielding candidates in crowded parliamentary contests and whether he has candidates

- remains unclear. Mr Faved owns the Ritz Hotel in Paris as well as other properties in the French capital and was described by a confident e esterday as a committed Eu-

His intervention will inevitably be seen as a rival to Sir James and his anti-federalist Referendum Party, The £20m, that Sir James has put into his organisation is more than matched by Mr Fayed's £23m.

A Harrods insider said last night: "This is an intellectual exercise at the moment, but the effort he is putting in reflects his strength of feeling."

Mr Faved's friends stress that he is not thought to be making his move in an attempt to have the citizenship laws redrawn and

to obtain a British passport, for

- Freedom of information Act

- Re-nationalisation of the utilities

It appears to be an expression of his deep anger with the British legal system, constitution and ingrained class prejudice, stoked by what he sees as his own mistreatment by the Goverument over his takeover of

As a former colonial citizen, he has said that he was brought up to respect Britain and its sense of fair play and old-fashioned values.

last night that since settling here permanently and buying Harrods Mr Fayed had discovered "a society in which the Government can roll over peo-

But a source close to him said ple and situations where they



Mohamed al-Fayed: 'A committed European

Reform Party manifesto

- Bill of Rights

The pin-stripe

philanthropists

City slickers with a conscience

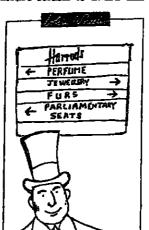
- Abolition of the House of Lords An elected second chamber
- Slimmed-down monarchy
- Devolution for Scotland and Wales

which he has campaigned, un-

successfully for years. His idea, it was explained, was "to fund a movement to bring about reform which will create a fairer system of government".

One of Mr Fayed's closest political influences is thought to be Lord Lester, the Liberal Democrat human rights lawyer. The Harrods owner's new forum was described as "humanist" in approach, by one source

Rather than make a substantial donation to one of the three main political parties, Mr Fayed decided to plan his own. He has waged an increasingly bitter war with the Conservatives, decrying the Government's refusal to award him



in the past. Labour did not appeal because of the fear that once in power, the new Blair regime would come under fierce pressure from resurgent trade

citizenship and the way he was disowned by the party despite having been a significant donor

Giving money to the Liberal Democrats was ruled out because the party was unlikely to have much clout after the next

By forming his own party, Mr Fayed is trying to build the platform he was seeking by acquiring or starting his own newspaper. Attempts to buy Today and the Observer, and to take over a news radio station were recently rebuffed - which has led him to think hard about funding his own party. The sum of money put aside is similar to the amount he is thought to

have offered for the Observer. In the last two years, Mr Fayed has become a high-pro-file thorn in the side of the Conservatives, exposing Neil Hamilton, the former trade minister, as having accepted and not declared to fellow MPs, free hospitality from him at the Ritz in Paris. Mr Fayed's accusations. made in a newspaper, forced Mr

nation. Another former minister, Jonathan Aitken, was also alleged by Mr Fayed to have had part of his Ritz bill paid by the hotel - something Mr Aitken has always denied.

A detailed dossier of allegations about ministers accepting hospitality and cash from Mr Fayed has been sent to Sir Gordon Downey, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

Mr Faved's office did not return calls last night.

Exclusive interview with sex-swap man who may force a change in law



P' at home yesterday after her victory: 'I am delighted not only for myself but for

fought for the female

ROS WYNNE-JONES

A man who was sacked after beginning treatment to become a woman was sexually discriminated against, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday, opening the way for hundreds more potential cases against em-

Legal representatives of the woman, who can only be named as "P" for legal reasons, said another 20 cases of alleged discrimination were already "in the pipeline" and more individuals were already coming forward following yesterday's decision in

> The battle for my beliefs page 17

Luxembourg. At least one case, concerning a woman known as "M", is to be brought against the

Ministry of Defence.
"I am delighted not only for myself but for everyone who sufwoman, who was dismissed from a further education college, said yesterday.

In all of my life and all of the treatment I have suffered, the way the head of the college behaved towards me was the most

brutal and the most hurtful." The woman was dismissed from a business consultancy position at the Cornwall college in 1992. She alleges that while employed as a man she had been offered a renewed contract with a rise in salary and other benefits, worth about £70,000.

TURN TO PAGE TWO

Heseltine calls for unity behind Major

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Michael Heseltine last night sought to stamp on a fresh spate of Tory leadership spec-ulation ahead of tomorrow's expected heavy losses in the local council elections with a ringing prediction that John Major would lead the party into the next general election.

In a resounding call for the party to unite behind the Prime Minister, Mr Heseltine launched a devastating assault on the party's Euro-sceptic right and sections of the national press for seeking to inflict on the Conservative Party "an ideological purity" which would sacrifice its natural and all important support in "middle England".

Mr Heseltine used all his authority as the party's most daz-

zling orator - as well as the most frequently canvassed potential re-election successor to Mr Major - to praise his leader's "bold and brave campaigning skills". He declared that those skills, "honed in the heat of battle", would be at the disposal of the party in the next election.

Clearly warning that Mr Major's right-wing tormentors risked throwing away the gen-eral election. Mr Heseltine declared: "I find it incomprehensible that the more Eurosceptic some people and newspapers become, the more they seem to risk the prospects of a craven Labour government, committed to the very policies they hate most."

Mr Heseltine's speech was delivered to a long, pre-planned meeting of the Tory Reform Group. It came in the midst of



call for party to stay loyal turbable ministers acknowl-

edged as an "unpredictable" period of "turbulence" ahead of the expected loss of 500 or more council seats tomorrow. Wishful hints from some MPs what even normally imper- on the right - fiercely contest-

Major might yet go, passing the leadership to Mr Heseltine in a "bloodless" coup were strongly undermined by unmistake-able signs that John Redwood, last year's challenger, would

Earlier, Downing Street

launched a swift operation to underpin the message that the Prime Minister had no intention of quitting after Mr Major refused to co-operate in what he called opposition "fantasy". During exchanges in the Commons, peppered with mock-friendly opposition ques-tions about whether he had made a pact with Mr Heseltine to stand down, George Foulkes, the Labour MP. asked for a "categorical assurance that however many seats your par-

ty lose on Thursday, you will

ed by several ministers - that Mr al election". Mr Major surprised a number of senior Tory MPs by merely saying that he had "no intention of accom-

modating your silly question".

Downing Street moved quickly to emphasise that Mr Major would indeed lead the party into the next election. It also took the unusual step of dismissing as "absolute baloney" numours that a pact was struck when Mr Heseltine was promoted after Mr Major's re-election as leader in the summer of 1995. That was later reinforced when it was said on Mr Heseltine's behalf that

such reports were "pathetic".

The fact that Mr Heseltine mounted a more robust defence of the Prime Minister's position than did Mr Major himself in the Commons, will no doubt encourage some of his admirers lead your party into the gener- particularly on the left of the

still accede to the leadership. In what could equally be interpreted as a warning to Mr Major not to bow further to the Euro-sceptics and the strongest possible reinforcement of the Prime Minister's rebuff to them on Monday, Mr Heseltine said every party leader faced the challenge of "identifying the point" at which "reinforcing the wishes, prejudice and selfinterest of a party's committed supporters may (put off) ... the uncommitted but essential votes without which electoral suc-

cess is impossible". The Deputy Prime Minister concluded with an unequivocal endorsement of Mr Major's European policy. "He is now entitled to our united support, which is the essential ingredient in our determination to win again.

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eclining sperm theory out for the count

DAVID USBORNE New York

Claims that men are suffering from a mysterious decline in their sperm counts that could ventually imperil the future of he human race are being dranatically challenged by scien-

ts in the United States. Three new studies into male tility suggest that sperm ints among American men. ast, have actually increased hily in the last twenty years. re is also intriguing eviice that residents of New than men in other US cities.

While the revelation hands welcome machismo rights to all Big Apple males, it is also the basis for another important conclusion: that previous studics suggesting falling sperm counts were grievously flawed because they tailed to take such geographical variations into ac-

A Danish scientist first alerted the world to the possibility of declining sperm counts in 1992, showing that sperm counts among 15,000 men in 20 'k City consistently demon- countries had dropped by Dr Harry Fisch of the Colum-

strate far higher sperm counts—almost half in 50 years. Two subsequent studies, in Belgium and France, drew similar conclusions, and raised concern over the quality of sperm.

The new findings, which are certain to provoke furious debate in the medical fraternity, are detailed in three reports in this month's issue of the US journal, Fertility and Sterility. One study analysed the se-

cities - Los Angeles, New York

and Roseville, Minnesota -

from 1970 to 1994. Its author,

in Los Angeles. men of 1,283 men who made deposits to sperm banks in three

but significant increase". There may be no explaining - scientifically anyway – the elevated sperm counts of New

York men, who boast 131.4 million sperm per millilitre of semen. That is more than 50 per cent higher than the measly 72.7 million registered by men living Much more important, says Dr Fisch, is to understand the main bodies of research that

bia-Presbyterian Medical Cen-ter in New York, found a "slight" and the Third World with earlier results from New York, where the counts have always been high. "Take New York out of those studies, and there is no decline," he said yesterday. Non-scientific speculation

about sperm-heavy New Yorkers is already under way. Among the theories: LA guys spend too much time in hot tubs (not good for the testicles), tight shorts (likewise) and in fitness gyms. Or there is the supply-and-demand angle: New Yorkers have more sex than men anywhere else.

N BRIEF

Willis' club searched Police raided a club run by Bob Willis, the former England cricketer, as part of an investigation into alleged illegal ticket sales for this year's European soccer championships and the

Today's weather Cloudy with rain in the North. Sunny spells and showers in the South. Section Two, page 25



section ONE

BUSINESS 19-23 COMMENT 16, 17 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 18 LEADING ARTICLES 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS 2-14 OBITUARIES 18 SHARES 23 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 19

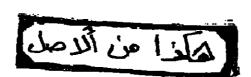
section TWO

have suggested worldwide de-

clines in sperm counts were mis-

leading because they compared

ARTS 6.7 BRIDGET JONES 5 CHESS 23 CROSSWORD 26 FINANCE 15 LAW 19,20 LISTINGS 24,25. MONEY 12-14 THEATRE 8.9 RADIO 27 TELEVISION 28 WEATHER 25



IN BRIEF

pain and distress after Flying

iquad marksmen wounded him

diet can be orgasmic" has been banned from railway stations. Maiden AdRail, which operates hoardings on behalf of Rail-track, said the Vegetarian So-

ciety advertisement was likely to offend the travelling public. It has been replaced by a poster of a chilli pepper and the cap-

tion "Apparently, vegetarian food makes you red hot".

Actor cleared

Armed robber loses legal aid

Agony and ecstasy of the emotionally challenged

This week politicians were la-belled "emotional illiterates" by psychotherapists. The most fa-mous is Susic Orbach, author (1 think) of Fear of Fat and Flying is a Feminist Issue, and who helped the Princess of Wales find herself by attending heart operations. MPs, however, as evidenced by their entrenched party stances and stage enmity, have real problems.

But suppose they didn't. Would Environment questions yesterday – despite proximity to local elections - centred on the theme "how can we work



fying experience for councillors and their constituents?" No such luck. From first to last, various parties savaged each other's records in local govtogether to make the operation ernment. The funding of West-

still in Conservative hands) was ny, when James Clappison, on a "fix" and a "fiddle", said emotionally under-developed socialists; while Sir Paul Beresford - junior minister and former dentist (and therefore probably a sadist) - referred to henanigans" in Labour and Libdem bailiwicks.

Barry Field (Con, Isle of Wight), who is not so much emotionally illiterate as emotionally incontinent, made a high-decibel rant in which the only words I could catch were "that lot ... wheurgh ... Liberals... grargh ... health warning". But, to be fair, there was a

moment of Orbachian harmo-

ed Now! magazine, which failed

in the late Seventies, before

building a French media empire.

Ross Perot made his money in

computers and is keen on using

cyberspace to link his Reform

the early stages of the US Re-

publican primaries this winter.

is heir to a \$1bn publishing em-

pire, which includes Forbes

magazine. And Mr Fayed has made repeated attempts to buy British newspapers; the Scott

Trust which owns the Observer.

recently refused a bid for that

using for his political party.

Party supporters together. Steve Forbes, who did well it the government from bench, spoke about "high-access woodlands", including the "twelve community forests". New Labourites subsided into reverjes about oak, ash and thorn coexisting in drug-free, low-crime, responsible togetherness. MPs

And what about a therapeutic Prime Minister's Question-Time? "Is the Prime Minister truly happy?" "It has been a difficult week, but a visit to the operating theatre at Huntingdon General worked wonders".

smiled at each other.

Not a chance. John's government was presiding over a

ty was soft on criminals. Peter Luff (Worcester) and Jacques Arnold (Gravesham) punctuated Blair's contribution with yells, whoops and childish gestures. Watching therapists in the public gallery clucked their

pressed pain on view. Better things might have been expected from Labour MP Angela Eagle's 10-mmute -rule bill on equal rights for part-time employees. Ms Eagle is a rising star but her modern image was belied by a traditional speech in which workers were "oppressed" and "exploited"

tongues in sympathy over the re-

erences were to slavery, the workhouse and mills. Opposing her was that clever

pinched-face ideologue, Alan Duncan. Where Ms Eagle had plucked our heartstrings with her descriptions of downtrodden folk working out of garrets and cellars, a tearful Mr Duncan sought relief for the "smallest and most vulnerable businesses in the country". Labour could never understand this, he said, because "the only thing that they have ever run in their life is a bath!" What did the sponsors of the bill know about the world of work? At

huge rise in crime. Tony's par- and her primary historical ref- which the florid ex-miner Ronnie Campbell, sitting next to Dennis Skinner on the badboys' beuch, graphically indi-cated to Mr Duncan his horny hands, his sinewy limbs and the

sweat of his brow Only when Ms Eagle stepped forward to present her bill did its healing, consensual qualities become apparent. To Mr Duncan's embarrassment its ignorant sponsors were of all parties, including Roseanna Cunningham (SNP), Emma Nitholson (Libdem), Elfyn Llwyd (Plaid) ... and Tory Hugh Dykes. A defeated Mr Duncan slipped off to book a session with Susie.

An armed robber suing police for shooting him has lost his legal aid, it was revealed yesterday. Steve Charalambous is demanding at least £750,000 for

in a hold-up three years ago.

The Legal Aid Board suspended the grant in February after a public outcry, warning his solicitors that it would be withdrawn unless their explanation for its use was satisfactory. Charalambous, 35, was jailed for five years in 1993 for an armed raid on a Post Office security van delivering £250,000 in Crouch End, north London.

Vegetable stew A poster of a giant courgette with the caption "A vegetarian

Al-Fayed's ambitions: Money gives Harrods boss the chance to throw stones at the windows of Westminster

Resistible rise of the tycoon politicians

This was a trend which was supposed to pass Britain by. The United States, with its presidential elections, was always a place where the very rich could buy a shot at winning political power. Italy, with corrupted politics, was a country where tycoons could sweep away the old, at least for a while. In Asia too, we have seen businessmenpoliticians, waving populist manifestos. But the British parliamentary and party system has always proved impermeable to capture by rich outsiders.

It will probably remain so. But Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, backed by £20m of his own money, has shown that a rich and determined outsider, armed with a popular idea, can make the political establishment quake. Now Mo-



ANDREW MARR

hamed al-Fayed has looked and learnt that lesson. Starting your own party may not take you to Downing Street, but it forces real politicians to notice you. And it is undoubtedly great fun.

So far, these tycoon-politicians have tended to be remarkably similar in key respects. They are people who have been scorned by the political establishment. Sir James's

protectionist views and bucca-

From cash box to ballot box



Imran Khan: Launched campaign against injustice.



a movement in Pakistan to and determined outsider, armed with a popular idea.



Ross Perot: Made his money in computers and is keen on using cyberspace to tink supporters together.



Stepping up: Mr Fayed, who nurses a grievance about the British political élite

paper reputed to be similar to But they have won huge perthe £23m he is now thinking of sonal publicity of a kind few Tycoon-politicians also betray business figures can dream of. a fondness for simple, eye-They have influenced political catching solutions. Sir James's debate in their countries, forcreferendum was preceded by ing mainstream politicians to re-Mr Perot's anti-Washington cruact. And at key moments sade: Mr Forbes's flat tax and tycoons have levered out the old establishment: in 1994, Mr Mr Berlusconi's Italian patriotism. In Pakistan, Imran Khan Berlusconi helped break the (married to Sir James's daughcorrupt Italian Christian Democrats. Three years earlier, at ter) has launched a Justice Movement, against, well, inthe other end of Europe, Bert justice. The al-Faved platform Karlsson, a down-market theme seems a little more complex, but park and record-label tycoon its emphasis on freedom of inhelped destroy the long rule of

formation and a Bill of Rights is in the populist mould. Thus far, apart from Mr conditions exploited by tycoon-Berlusconi, none of these peopoliticians elsewhere. Popular discontent with Westminster ple have actually won power.

Swedish Social Democracy. Britain shares some of the

and Brussels echoes the hostility to Washington shown by middle America. Though British politics is not corrupt in the way that Italian politics has been the sleaze stories of the mid-Nineties and the publication of the Scott report have helped undermine confidence in the unreformed political system.

We are not immune to seeing business people as popular hernes - Richard Branson and Bill Gates are obvious examples. And like other countries, Britain has shivered in the winds of global economic change which have stripped away some of the traditional security of middleclass voters, making political instability likelier.

The great difference, as Mr Faved is likely to discover, is that the British parliamentary system. based on first-past-the-post constituencies makes it far, harder for a charismatic outsider to

break down the gates of power. Sir James is gaining his influ-ence by frightening a divided and flailing party of government into thinking his people will help ex-pel Tory MPs in favour of Labour ones in marginal seats. In Britain. tycoons can only throw stones at the windows of the closed Westminster élite. In a world where publicity and power are often mistaken for one another. Six James and Mr Faved remain potential party saboteurs, not

saving

Now that Mohame 1 31-Raved has become the latest ou. nessman to launch a political party that will rescue Britain, many readers are asking themseives "Could I be next?" The answer is almost certainly "yes". if you follow this simple step-by-step guide to saving the nation.

1) Make your first £100m. Do

not make the money in this country. To do so might take the edge off your patriotism. It is acceptable for the saviour-tycoon to make a subsequent fortune in England, but he should enter British public life as a rich man, who sees the whole island as a sort of country cottage, where he can rest on his honours.

Try to buy a newspaper.There is nothing like failing to buy two or three newspapers to make a man realise that this country is so rotten that it needs a new government.

3) Once you have reached this insight, the next stage comes naturally. Everywhere you look you see evidence of near criminal incompetence. Since no one will sell you a newspaper, you start writing letters to them. No one takes any notice. You realise the entire establishment is ganging up on tice. Wearying of writing letters to the papers, you start to take out full-page advertisements. Still fewer people take notice.

 Make another couple of hundred million. Realise that money may not be everything. Write a book to this effect, and command every outpost of your vast empire to hand out free copies of your work. By now you have almost certainly attracted a number of alarmingly clever young men who understand that you are the country's only hope. Everyone else believes you are suffering from megalomania. Only these young people have the perspicacity to see that your

problem is altruism. There are only two cures for aitruism on this scale, and one of them has already been taken: to marry Miss Roberts, the grocer's daughter. The other is to own a national newspaper and to make money out of it. It worked for Lord Beaverbrook and Conrad Black. If only Mussolini had been able to make his papers pay.

A simple guide to

ANDREW BROWN

The actor William Murray, 54. who plays DS Don Beech in The Bill, was cleared of punching a diner in a London restaurant. Bow Street magistrates disharged the case because the prosecution was not ready to commit him for trial. Mr Murray said he had punched company director John Mills, 37, in self defence at Langan's Brasserie last November.

£50,000 coins find

A man digging foundations for his new house in the Scottish Borders unearthed 1,472 silver coms worth at least £50,000. The hoard, dating from between 1280 and 1322, includes English, Scottish, Irish and some continental coins. The location at a village near Kelso has been kept secret because the finder wants to avoid his property being invaded by fortune hunters.

School buses crash

More than 100 children escaped serious injury when two school buses crashed in rush hour traffic. Twelve ambulances rushed to the scene on the Tenter Bridge over the Al north-east of Leeds and a doctor driving past the accident stopped to help paramedics treat children on the spot.

Shellshocked

laid an 80z egg, 5in high and ain in circumference. Chicken farmer Madge Cox said: "My first thought when I saw it was: 'Oh my God - is she all right?"

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'It was like coming home when I knew I could have surgery'

FROM PAGE 1

Lawvers for the beadteacher, who also cannot be named. said that it was a matter of redundancy and not of dis-

"P" said that the sacking had came at the worst possible time, because she was about to undergo a major life change. She also needed her income, because private surgery is had not been able to find the language, or a concept, to explain why she felt different

from other people.
"I have a twin sister and I could never understand why we were treated any different. I didn't feel as if I was born in the wrong body or anything like that. I just knew something was wrong with me. When I got to about seven years old I realised that everything couldn't come right and I assumed I would die because that was the

only possible future for me." It was not until the late 1980s that she found a support group and realised the possibility of acceptance and surgery.

"It was like coming home,"

I could have surgery, it was like having an incurable illness that could be cured. No-one ever asks a blind person whether they actually want an operation - of course they have it." The first stage for anyone

who is intending to embark on a course of gender reassignment surgery is for them to live as someone of the gender that they wish to become It was at this stage that "P"

decided that it was time to talk to her employers. "I told the headteacher about my circumstances and, initially, he was supportive, saying that he valued me for my aptitude and skills and that wouldn't change," she said.

"But the weeks passed by which time I was living as a woman at work, and it became clear that the new contract he had promised me wasn't going to come. He then made me redundant and while I was on holiday, he emptied my office and put someone else in my place and banned me from

speaking to my staff." Yesterday, the European Court of Justice found that the behaviour of the school direcshe said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro-

pean Union directive on equal treatment, which guarantees men and women the same

The Court heard that "article 5 precludes dismissal of a transsexual for reasons relating to gender reassignment" and that the principle of equal treatment for men and women meant there should be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex.

The case was sent to Luxembourg by a industrial tribunal held in Cornwall, to establish whether transsexuals and attitudes towards changes of sex are covered by European law. The tribunal will now decide on

Last night the college and headteacher refused to comment, other than to acknowledge that they were aware of the judgement. Cornwall County Council, which was also named in the industrial tribunal proceedings said: "All submissions in this case have been entered by the Government."

The Equal Opportunities Complission, which financed the cise, said it was now likely that the Government would have to amend legislation.

The ruling provoked a flur-ry of protest in Westminster, owever, with several Conservative MPs expressing outrage about "more interference from Brussels".

The Department for Education described the ruling as "very disappointing". "We will now be looking very carefully at the details of the judgment," a DFEE spokesman said.

Stonewall, the gay rights campaign group, said that the ruling would aid their fight for gay men and lesbians to be allowed to serve in the military, as transsexuals would now be protected from dismissal from the armed forces on the grounds of their sexual condi-

"This is the first case of its kind and we are expecting many more," said Ramby Diemello. the woman's barrister.

"Independent figures show there are 20,000 transsexuals in the country. Cases to be brought would not just be about employment rights for transsexuals people, but - in order for the law to be consistent would also concern matters such as marriage, adoption, birth certificates and passports."

Irish tell Major to open talks

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

John Major has been urged by Dublin personally to open the all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland in a last-ditch attempt to persuade the IRA to restore the ceasefire and allow Sinn Fein to sit down at the negotiating table.

It could mean Mr Major would have to meet Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, and Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein leader. Irish officials have told Downing Street the Prime Minister's affendance at the opening of the negotiations on 10 June would send the 'right signal" to the IRA of the Government's commitment.

Mr Major has been told John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, will be there, if he agrees to represent the British Government at the negotiations.

Irish sources said: "He can't make his mind up." Mr Major fears if the talks dramatically broke down, he would be associated with the failure.

British ministers believe there is a serious risk that the talks could collapse on the first day over the issue of decommissioning IRA weapons.

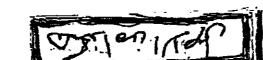
Tory MPs rejected the idea, floated by Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, for the decommissioning issue to be hived off into separate talks.

Downing Street avoided saying anything officially about Mr Spring's proposal. Irish of ficials believe it will need talks between Mr Bruton and Mr Major in the coming days to avoid it becoming a crisis.

It was rejected out of hand by David Wilshire, a Tory MP. who warned that it would mean the Ulster Unionists could not attend the talks. His warning was reinforced by other leading Tory backbench MPs yesterday and the Ulster Unionists. led by David Trimble. Mr Trim ble said: "I think it is very fool ish of Mr Spring to raise the hare at this issue.

'I don't see any merit in it all. We have already dealt w this issue. The Mitchell Rep deals with the issue. There is

need for a further report." The Government will to Dublin the proposal is una ceptable to the Ulster Unio ists and would not work. "Wha the Irish don't seem to under stand is that we can't force the Ulster Unionists to the talks," said one ministerial source.



EU backs

pensioner

over bus

pass row

Home Affairs Correspondent Retired men have won another victory in their fight for equality with women which could cost local authorities millions of pounds - this time in a test case over bus passes An advocate-general of the European Court of Justice ruled the Government broke EU equality rules by denying men cut-price passes until the age of 65, while women quali-

The interim ruling - certain to be upheld by the full court in the summer - opens the floodgates to refund claims from thousands of men and will he seized upon by Euro-sceptics as another costly interference in Britain's right to make its own laws. There are an estimated 1.5 million men aged 60 to 64. It comes only six months after a similar judgment which forced the Government to give

free prescriptions to men at 60 the same age as for women -

and at a cost of £40m a year. Ministers had the choice of raising women's age of entitlement to 65 but decided not to risk the electoral unpopularity. The Government had already made provision to

equalise the retirement age at 65 for men and women between

2010 and 2020, and the pre-

breached EU equality rules, by

making him wait until he was 65

HEATHER MILLS

Bookman's prize: Novelist spearheads successful campaign as study reveals strains on an exist and writers





Green and pleasant land: The Slad Valley in Gloucestershire where plans for a housing development have been shelved. Above: Laurie Lee celebrating in the Woolpack pub

Cider celebration in Rosie's rustic valley

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

The Slad Valley, immortalised by Laurie Lee in his best-selling novel Cider With Rosie, is to be spared a 90-house development after a successful year-long campaign by locals.

A driving force behind the Slad Valley Action Group was the author himself who joined in the celebrations after Four Oaks, the development company, announced it had withdrawn an appeal to build the

Stroud District Council had already refused planning per-

mission because the proposed development would significantly harm the quality and character of the landscape. Four Oaks lodged an appeal and a public inquiry was due to be held later this month.

Mr Lee, who lives in the val-ley, said: "Of course I have a feeling of elation and relief that this threat has been removed from us.

"People feared what this development would mean. People who live here or visit are enchanted that such a valley still

"Apart from the stone walls,

was indestructible, but two of the walls fell down recently and I suppose I shall be the next to fall. At least I can go knowing this important fight has been won."

The action group raised £4,000 to fight the appeal, which will now be put in a trust fund to save the greenfield site if another application is made. There are still fears that another cil and the district council to application will be submitted, but for the moment the mood is one of celebration.

I am the oldest thing in the val-ley. I used to think like them I for Four Oaks said: "The decision to withdraw was taken on planning issues and not because of the public outcry. Con-cerns of the literary links with Cider With Rosie clouded the issue. The village of Slad is two kilometres away from our de-

velopment but a lot of emotion

has been stirred up. The developers will wait for Gloucestershire County Counproduce their local plans, which form a blueprint for land use

stage we are ruling nothing in and ruling nothing out." Mr Lee, sitting in the Cider With Rosie bar of the Woolpack in Slad, a hostely featured in the novel, was still celebrating vesterday, however.

He said:"We have been drinking scrumpy since we heard the news and I expect this will continue for a little while

The author added: "It has been a tough battle and given the forces ranged against us we didn't expect an easy victory. one of celebration.

into the next century, before de- Four Oaks is a name I always far afield as Australia, New deprives a few share However, the fears may not ciding what to do next. "At this mix up with a local pub, but they Zealand and the United States a little extra money."

weren't distributing favourite beer. They had plans to stud the end of the valley with new houses and roads." Mr Lee supported art exhi-

bitions, concerts and poetry readings to raise money for the campaign. He also spoke against the development at a packed public meeting attended by Four Oaks representatives

While campaigners acknowledge that people need to have homes, those living in the valley - plus supporters from as far afield as Australia, New who are fans of the novel feared the housing would be the thin end of the wedge and precipitate further development. Mr Lee came to the valley

stayed until he was 19, "I used to think the whole world was like this," he said. "When I went out into the world to try my fortune I realised there was only one place

"There are some things that are unique and are unspoilt and shouldn't be ravaged, even if it deprives a few shareholders of

scription age will go up at the same time. when he was three years old and In the test case brought by pensioner Stanley Atkins, the advocate-general of the European Court of Justice decided yesterday that Government

like this. for his cut price bus pass, while women could get their at 60. Mr Atkins, a retired garage mechanic from Ketley Bank, Shropshire, said: "This is an im-

portant step along the road to putting right a major injustice. His victory was welcomed by campaigners for the elderly. Sally Greengross, director gen-eral of Age Concern said: "Public transport is vital to older people's freedom and independence. Age Concern would like to see the introduction of

for all those over the age of 60. But representatives of local authorities were concerned at the effects on local authority budgets. Councils have no legal obligations to run the schemes and may choose to scrap them. or introduce a common age qualification of 65, rather than meet the cost - possibly millions

of subsidising men from the

a national concession scheme

age of 60, they warned. The Government had argued that concessionary travel on public transport was linked to a person's pensionable age, was not a social security benefit and was therefore not covered by the 1979 EU directive.

Health, love and happiness are preserve of poets

Health Editor

Young writers take heed. If severe manic depression refactory sex life, and longevity, then express yourself in verse, rather than playwriting or prose.

A new study suggests that poets are not the angst-ridden victims of their verbal creativity that is popularly supposed. In fact, compared to playwrights and novelists they are models of mental and social stability.

An analysis of 100 wellknown British and American writers - including Heming-way. Waugh, Conrad, and Scott Fitzgerald - found that poets

There was one drawback for poets highlighted by the study: they suffered higher levels of quiring hospital treatment than playwrights and novelists. Mood swings between elation and depression were found in 25 per cent of them, against only 7 per cent of other writers.

They also appeared to live longer, 43 per cent were over the age of 74 when they died, compared with 38 per cent of playwrights and just 24 per cent of novelists and poets.

And while they were living, poets also enjoyed happier mar-riages than their fellow scribes.



writers enjoyed satisfactory marriages, according to the study published today in the





wrights. This may have been a

data from the post-mortem bi-ographies of the writers, and compared the frequency of various abnormalities between poets, playwrights, and prose fiction writers. His controversial conclusion is that "greater inner turmoil

Dr Felix Post, emeritus physi-

cian at The Bethlem Royal

Hospital, London, collected

and neural [nerve cell] activity involved in writing prose and plays" may result in the lower frequency of depressive disorders among poets.

Dr Post was building on a previous study published in

types, including painters, mu- and social instability, had been sicians, philosophers, and some Hospital and the Maudsley scientists.

novelist/poets, and only 14 per depression and alcohol-related

The prevalence of personality deviations in the group of 100 writers was 30 per cent, higher than that in the 1994 study (20 per cent) and considerably higher than the incidence in the general population. There was also a much high-

er incidence in the study group of anxiety-depressive disorder (60 per cent) than of schizoid disorders (8 per cent) or of the anti-social, histrionic and narcissistic traits (23 per cent)

excluded from his 1994 study beproblems as other creative cause of their reputed mental

in poets (31 per cent) and highest in playwrights (54 per cent), with only three poets (Berryman, Hart Crane and Pope) and one novelist/poet experiencing alcoholic psychoses.

Overall, the study suggests that the difference between success and failure for a writer - be it poetry, prose or plays may be a dysfunctional family background. Three-quarters of the group studied hailed from families with a psychiatric

which are most frequently enhistory. Almost 30 per cent result of the latter's rampant More than 70 per cent of the promiscuity; more than 40 per had some family experience of countered among the general playwrights had problematic or suffered less severe depresbroken marriages, compared with just 26 per cent for poets. British Journal of Psychiatry. They were most likely to be pocent of them were notorious for 1994 of 291 world-famous men alcoholism, and nearly a quarpopulation. sions, alcoholism, personality In conclusion. Dr Post said their sexual behaviour, comwhich concluded that writers terexperience of mental illness. deviations, and marital and sexthat poets, who had been Leading article, page 16 ets and least likely to be playpared with 20 per cent of were twice as likely to suffer Overall, only one third of the RAGE TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY ES GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE VEHIC

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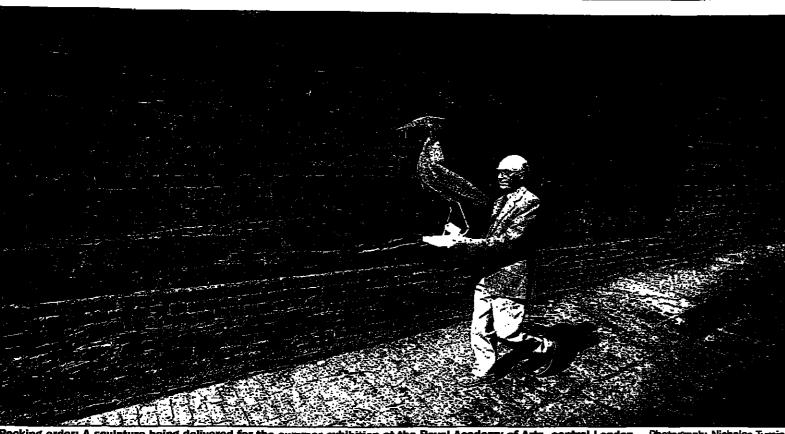
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Howard's way fails to deter crime

Home Affairs Correspondent

Michael Howard's "prison works" criminal justice policies have been called into question by the latest figures showing that despite locking up

record numbers of inmates. crime is again on the increase. The news is a grave embar-

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tary whose law and order credentials in the run up to a general election are pinned to harsher prison terms and giving police and prosecutors extra

It will also strengthen the arm of the judiciary in their opposition to Mr Howard's latest crime initiative of introducing tougher minimum sentences rassment for the Home Secre- for a wide range of criminals - contained inaccuracies. The

from burglars and drug dealers to rapists. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, has said that what deters crime is prevention

and getting caught - not the threat of a longer spell in prison. Yesterday the Government sought to contain the damage, claiming in the Commons that the leaked note of a meeting of senior Home Office officials

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memorandum said that for the past six months crime has been mons that although monthly figrising despite the fact the courts have been sending people to jail in record numbers. The prison population now stands at 54,178 - far higher than civil servants

were predicting and at a rate far outpacing the prison building programme. Crown Courts are the figures "seriously undersending 20 per cent more peo-

8.5% gross p.a.

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ures were volatile "there is no doubt that crime fell in the last two months of 1995". However, compared with the year before, the figures had risen and Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said mine" Mr Howard's claim to be ple to jail than three years ago. turning the tide on crime.

Superstores 'to ban prime beef from abattoirs'

Supermarket chains are urging their beef suppliers to refuse to participate in Government uns to dispose of at least 21,000 cattle a week, striking another blow to the £550m

Retailers are concerned that public confidence in British beef will be undermined if abattoirs supplying them with prime beef also slaughter older cows, considered to be at great risk from BSE. The destruction of cattle over 30 months old as part of efforts to eradicate the disease was due to begin today, but major logistical difficulties mean the cull will not start

The British Retail Consortium said four of the leading supermarket chains have threatened to take their business elsewhere if suppliers participate. The consortium's food director, Janet Nunn, said: "It

long term it must be worth their while satisfying their retail

customers.

Supermarket chain Somerfield has written to Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister. Stephen Ridge, the group's quality assurance executive, said: "I have told him the scheme is a nonsense. The way the compensation is structured, the abattoirs need to take part.

While we accept the scientific view, the public perception is that the cull cows could be infected and should not go through the same processor as the clean beef. We are in discussion with our suppliers. We have told them we do not want them to participate. Some have more than one plant, but for others it will cause problems. The whole issue is about satis-

fying the public."
Waitrose has raised its concerns with suppliers and a concerned that consumer con-

way linked with the culling of animals perceived to be unfit for human consumption.

A Safeway spokeswoman confirmed: "We are concerned. Whatever we decide to do will be in the interests of the consumer.

The problems facing the Intervention Board, which is overseeing the scheme, could deepen if abattoirs pull out, although the Meat and Livestock Commission is adament that hygiene procedures will be rigorously policed. Abattoirs must slaughter cows over 30 months and beef cattle for the food chain at separate times. In between, the processing plants must be disinfected, supervised by the Meat Hygiene Service.

Peter Scott, general secretary of the Fresh Meat Federation. rushed to dismiss public fears. "Great care will be taken to separate clean beef from cull cows. If we want to solve the problems

stands firm on exports

KATHERINE BUTLER Luxembourg

EU agriculture ministers last night rejected Britain's demand for a timetable for the lifting of the ban on British beef exports and attacked the Government's new selective slaughter plans as

Demanding more radical steps, ministers said the latest British plans to target 42 000 high-risk animals, although a step in the right direction, would produce an insufficient decline in BSE cases to reassure

ment yesterday said the 15 per cent to 30 per cent decline in cases forecast by Britain was not enough. They advised that a 50 per cent to 60 per cent target should be reached. They also expressed serious doubts about how identifying and tracing back suspect animals and herds - the foundation of Mr Hogg's plan - would be implemented in the absence of complete data on animal movements.

Mr Hogg was last night edging towards acceptance of a draft deal which inevitably

tertight plan entailing the slaughter of perhaps thousands more animals. In exchange, his EU colleagues were prepared to offer only the carefully worded assurance that this "forms part of a process which should allow the export ban to be pro-gressively lifted on a step-bystep basis".

Diplomats said the statement reflected the concern that Mr Hogg should be given a face-saving formula to allow him to sell the need for more radical slaughter plans to British

OUR 3 YEAR STEPPED BOND

The Royal Brompton Hospital in the heart of "blue babies"; invited to take part in an oper ror Group newspapers, to establish itself as a national and

hing medicine. The Heart of Britain campaign aims to get people "car-diactive" and reduce the risk of heart disease while raising funds for the trust to strengthen its treatment and research

programmes.
The Royal Brompton, founded in 1844, has a long history of "medical firsts", including the first heart/lung transplant in the UK; the first umbrella device to close holes

NHS Trust today launches a and the first use of a heart laser new campaign, backed by Mir- to treat patients with intractable angina.

The hospital houses the European centre for heart and largest unit in the UK for treatment of occupational and environmental asthma, and the largest cystic fibrosis unit in Europe, caring for 800-plus patients. Doctors and scientists from the hospital are at the leading edge of research into

gene therapy for this disease.

The highlight of the Heart of
Britain campaign coincides
with the British Heart Foundation's British Heart Week from 29 June to 7 July - when members of the public will be

photographic competition, reflecting their view of the Heart of Britain in nine categories. These include, Tomorrow's Britain, Young Britain, Caring Britain, Animal Britain, and

Good Time Britain. The 300 best photographs will be published in a full colour book sold to generate funds for the hospital. The entry fee for the competition is £2 for up to three prints and £5 for up to 10 prints, with all proceeds going to the cam-

For more details of the campaign and the competition, telephone 0171 351 8571.

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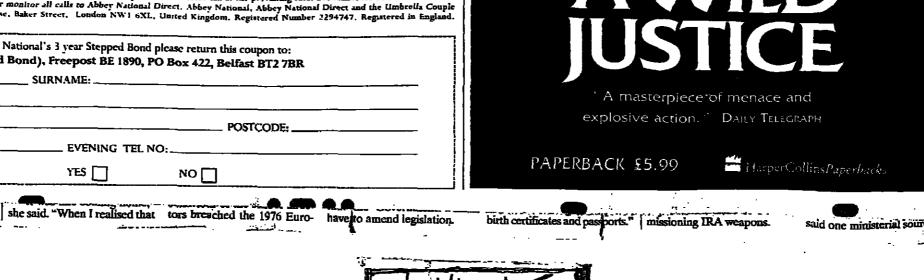
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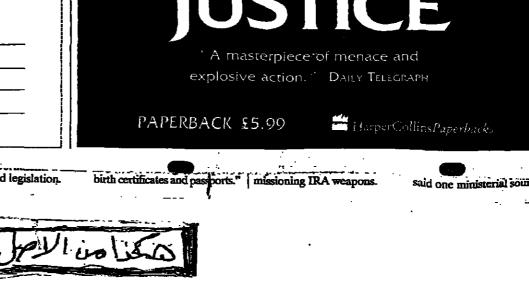
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.. THEY EVEN KILL DOLPHINS TOO

BLOODY SLAUGHTER

to eef ire Islands, 200 miles north of Scotland, who enjoy a particularly grisly pastime. They like to spend a family day out at the beach, killing helpless pilot whales. It's quite a messy business with a lot of blood and guts. But the Faroese aren't squeamish. They even take the kids along to join in the fun. Everyone has a great time everyone that is except the pilot whales.

During the 1980s, the worst decade of the kill's history, more than 20,600 pilot whales were slaughtered. Today, despite enormous international opposition, the hunt goes on.

Here the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), exposes the true horror of the Faroese pilot whale kill and asks for your help to stop it as part of our biggest campaign EVER to KILL the whale trade and SAVE whales once and for all...

Dress it up how you like whaling is murder and murder is wrong!

In the near and tidy front room of her home in the Faroese capital of Torshavn, a kindly, intelligent woman is explaining why her country has been slaughtering pilot whales for over 400 years.



The Faroe Islands are situated 200 miles north of Scotland.

"The whales are a gift from God." she smiles. "They suim into the bays, shouting eat me, eat me."

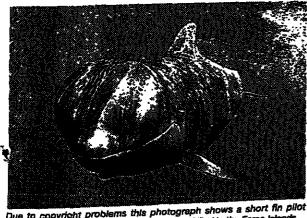
It's hard to convince a woman so blinkered by hundreds of years of tradition, that pilot whaling should stop.

This woman is not alone in seeing nothing wrong in stocking her freezer with pilot whale meat and blubber. But the brutal reality cannot be so easily ignored by the world at large.

BLOODY SLAUGHTER

After a terrifying chase by boat inland, the whales are herded into a shallow bay and then the killing begins. First, the Islanders hammer vicious 5lb metal whaling hooks or "gaffs", often repeatedly, into the bodies of the whales until they hold. The gaffs don't always hold first time and on one occasion witnesses reported seeing an Islander continuously stomping on a whale's head in order to drive the gaff home.

With the whales writhing in agony and beginning to drown in their own blood, the Islanders swap their gaffs for 6-inch whaling knives which they use to plunge into the defenceless whales, slashing through the blubber and flesh until the spinal column and main blood vessels are reached and severed. Then, moving on to the next victim, those whales whose spinal columns have not been reached, are left to die slowly and in agony.



Due to copyright problems this photograph shows a short fin pilo whale, a close relative of the long fin species idlied in the Farce Islands.

It has been known for some whales to take as long as 10 minutes to die. But it may take many hours for all the whales to be despatched.

No whale is spared.

In 1994, over 1,200 whales were killed like this. 668 were put to death in a single day. Of these, 200 were wasted with none of their meat used for human consumption.

THEY EVEN KILL DOLPHINS TOO

The Faroese make no secret of their killing of pilot whales. In fact they are proud of it. But will they be quite so relaxed when we tell you, and the world at large, that they use the same vile practices on dolphins too?

WDCS has concrete evidence that in 1995, as many as 127 dolphins of various species were killed in the Faroes. Will they stop at nothing?

Pilot whales and dolphins don't deserve this



This man is using a six-inch knife to cut through the neck of a pilot whale, in an attempt to sever its spinal column. The whale is still alive.

We won't be put off. Rather than be intimidated by threats from the Faroese. WDCS has campaigned tirelessly to halt the slaughter. One action we have taken to make those who persist in the kills, sit up and listen to us, is to help to introduce an international boycott on the sale of fish products like Faroese haddock and Faroese cod.

INTENSE PRESSURE WORKS

Public opinion has now forced major supermarket chains including Marks and Spencer, Tesco and Sainsbury to stop selling Faroese fish or to agree to label their fish so people can make their own choices.

So far, we believe the campaign has cost the Faroese economy over £12 million in lost and unplaced fish orders.

We must expose this horror.

The boycott is just one way we can hit back at those who insist on continuing to kill pilot whales. But opposition to us is fierce and if we are to save the whales from certain death at the hands of these people, then we simply must keep up the pressure.

HELP WDCS STOP THE KILLING

Pilot whales aren't the only species at risk and the Faroese aren't the only ones doing the killing. Countries and governments all over the world (including ours), have been responsible at some time or another for inflicting suffering and even death on innocent whales and dolphins.

WDCS has been trying to meet the whale and dolphin tormentors head on. We fund over 40 projects worldwide to aid whales and dolphins at risk, including pilot whales.

As a registered charity, WDCS relies on the generosity of people who cannot stand by as innocent creatures are butchered and brutalised in the name of tradition.

If the cruelty in the Faroe Islands makes you sick and you want to help the world's whales and dolphins, then join our biggest campaign <u>ever</u> to stamp out the whale trade!

SEND AN IMMEDIATE DONATION.

By responding to this advertisement today with a gift for as much as you can spare, you can help us continue to fund vital whale and dolphin conservation projects around the world, making the seas and oceans of our world a safer, cleaner place for all whales and dolphins.

Get a great video. If you can send £25 or more, to our appeal today, we will send you a copy of our stunning video: The World of Whales and Dolphins. A special thank you from us and a reminder of how your support will be helping to save hundreds of whales and dolphins from the clutches of their tormentors.

Refuse to buy Faroes fish products. Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and Tesco have labelled their Faroese fish: "Products of the Faroe Islands." Help the whales - don't buy it!

Act now. Every day thousands of whales or dolphins are either killed or harmed. Every day's delay means more needless deaths and suffering.

Join our campaign to stamp out the whale trade today!

Complete and return the coupon below immediately to: WDCS, FREEPOST, (SN863), Bath, BA1 2XF.

Thank you!

Fishing legends from around the world tell us that the name 'pilot' comes from the whales' piloting of fishermen towards schools of fish. But these gentle whales are now remorselessly massacred by the fishermen of the Faroes. Hardly a just reward for their legendary helpfulness to humans.

HELP US STAMP OUT THE Yes! I want to help WDCS's protect whales and dolphins even

Pilot whales are the gentle giants of the deep. Known for their amazing family bonds, (pilot whale calves stay with their mothers for many years), these special creatures have been known to strand and die rather than leave a sick or wounded member of the pod.

END THE BLOODSHED

For many years, WDCS has been campaigning to end the bloodshed in the Faroe Islands. As the world's foremost charity devoted solely to fighting for the protection of whales and dolphins, we have presented consistent and well researched arguments to the International Whaling Commission, to convince them to take action.

We have also tried to talk to the Faroese government, but they refuse to hear what we have to say and in a sinister move, they have also prevented their own people from talking to us.

Campaigners who have travelled to the Islands, with our support, have been intimidated and threatened with physical violence, but despite this, some Faroe Islanders have spoken to us in secret of their opposition to the killing and the chinks in the Faroese armour are starting to show!

HELP US STAMP OUT THE WHALE TRADE TODAY! Yes! I want to help WDCS's biggest campaign ever and protect whales and dolphins everywhere from their tormentors. Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (IN CAPITALS): _ I euclose a cheque/postal order (payable to WDCS) for. £10 🗆 £15 🗆 £50 🗆 Other £ I'm giving £25. Please send me my video [Or please debit my Access/Visa/Mastercard/CAF CharityCard (delete as appropriate) Card Number: Please send me more information about WDCS membership WHALE & DOLPHIN Please return this completed coupon, together with your gift, to: WDCS, FREEPOST, (SN863), Bath, BA1 2XF. No stamp needed. Thank you! Instant donations hotline: 01225 334511. CONSERVATION SOCIETY Registered Charity Number 1014705 Weekdays 8.30 - 5.00pm. any Registration Number 2737421 Outsimally we also other regulate charites to must to our supporters and they allow to its units to their. This "empirical" arms

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Police arrest 17 in illegal ticket sales inquiry

WILL BENNETT

Police raided the historic National Sporting Club run by Bob Willis, the former England cricketer, yesterday as part of an investigation into alleged illegal ticket sales for this year's European football championships and the FA Cup final

Seventeen people were arrested in raids on 11 companies in London, which police suspect have been offering unauthorised tickets for either Euro '96, which takes place in England in June, or the Cup Final in 10

Although no tickets were found during the raids detectives believe that some companies specialising in lucrative hospitality deals may have been planning to use stolen tickets or obtain supplies from foreign Euro '96 allocations.

But David Willis, a director of the National Sporting Club and brother of the former England fast bowler, last night denied any wrongdoing and

said that the club believed that based at the Café Royal in it had been authorised to sell tickets for Euro '96.

"As far as we are concerned everything we have done from the word go has been com-pletely legal and therefore we were completely astonished to get a visit from the constabulary this morning," said Mr Willis, who took over the club with his brother five years ago.

"We applied for tickets for Euro '96 on official forms about seven months ago. We then found a hospitality suite, which is an office block overlooking Wembley stadium and promoted packages for match tickets and hospitality varying in price from £150 to £350.

"We are offering a very high-class hospitality deal where people are entertained to unlimited amounts of champagne before being given a first-class four-course meal and a seat at the match."

The police raid lasting several hours was a severe embarrassment for the club which is necessary action.'

dale and the Marquess of Queensberry. For many years it administered boxing in Britain.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said yesterday: "Making an offer to sell or to be able to provide tickets is itself an offence if you are not authorised to do so. All the places we went to were not authorised therefore, if any of them have entered deals to provide tickets then that is an offence."

Alec McGivan, media relations manager for Euro '96. which is being organised by the Football Association, said: "Our terms and conditions clearly state that tickets must not be sold at a price higher than the face value. They must also not be sold as part of a hospitality package without the FA's prior consent ...

"If it becomes clear that our terms and conditions have been broken we will seek to take the

New drought warning

NICHOLAS SCHOON **Environment Correspondent**

Much of England has suffered five months of below average rainfall over the past year, a drought report from the Government's new Environment Agency warns today.

Serious shortfalls in reservoirs and underground rock aquifers bave resulted, but the problems were made worse by bitterly cold winter weather, says the report sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer.

Freezing conditions led to a spate of burst pipes, which meant that across most of the country more water had to be

stretching the impoverished

This April had just over 70 per cent of the long-term average rainfall for the month in England and Wales. Since February last year, only September, December and February have had above average. November had exactly the mean and every other month was well under.

If there is another hot, dry summer, then half the country is likely to be put under hosepipe or non-essential use bans, says the agency, which protects the natural water resources of England and Wales. Furthermore, a dozen water

put into the mains than during companies are expected to seek the previous winter, further permission to take extra water from rivers and boreholes.

Even with average summer rainfall this year, five companies Yorkshire, North West, South West, Southern and South East are planning to extend existing drought measures or take

However, the report says the water companies have learnt from last year's drought, and praises them for spending hundreds of millions of pounds to boost their supplies and distribution networks over the winter. But it warns them not to delay in bringing in restrictions on customers if the drought continues into the summer.



Out of the shadows: Leanne Benjamin, who plays the title role in Kenneth MacMillan's production of 'Anastasia', makes her entrance on roller skates. The Royal Ballet production opens at Covent Garden tomorrow Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Fan attacked by Cantona denies provocation

A football fan yesterday ac-cused the Manchester United player Eric Cantona of launching an unprovoked attack on him during a Premier League

Matthew Simmons was appearing at Croydon Magistrates' Court where he is charged with two counts of using threatening language and behaviour during the match between Crystal Palace and Manchester United at Selhurst Park, south London. on 25 January 1995. Millions of television viewers

saw United's French striker aim a kung-fu kick at Mr Simmons, who was standing in the crowd, and then throw a punch at him as he made his way to the tunnel after being sent off.

The court was told by pros-ecution witnesses that Mr Simmons provoked the assault by hurling a torrent of obscene and abusive language at Cantona. But Mr Simmons, 21, a dou-

ble-glazing fitter, of Thornton Heath, south London, denied using language which the prosecution says was designed to bait the player. He said: "After Eric Cantona had been sent off I re-

alised that Richard Shaw [a Crystal Palace player], needed treatment and that this was a pause in the game and would give me the chance to go to the toilet. I was casually walking down the stairs and as I got to the bottom of the aisle Eric Cantona was walking along the line. We simultaneously met and the crowd was fairly noisy and everyone was cheering and noisy and pleased that he had been sent off, me included.

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"I was shouting 'Off, off, off, and I was pointing towards the dressing room cos that's what you do at football games. At no time was I doing anything else than pointing. I did not use any language of this kind. At no stage did I swear and I am quite certain of that.

"As far as I am concerned I was doing nothing wrong to deserve these actions. I was teasing ing Cantona but there is a big difference between a criminal offence and what you would call

banter at a football match." The magistrates decided that there was a case to answer on both charges, and the trial was adjourned until today.

en into second place by rivals Russ and Jono of Virgin Radio

in the music-based breakfast

show category.

BBC Radio 5 Live's coverage

of the Ryder Cup play-off be-tween Philip Walton and Jay

Haas last year received Gold

awards for best sports programme and best event

There was further glory for

the BBC as Dr Anthony Clare's

Top broadcast award for Chris Evans

BBC disc jockey Chris Evans 1997. His programme was beatwas yesterday named Broad-caster of the Year in the Sony Radio Awards. The win pertially vindicated the decision by Controller of Radio One, Matthew Bannister, to modernise the station.

Evans's Radio One Breakfast Show draws a weekly audience of more than 7 million listeners and is the most popular single radio show in the UK. His success follows Mr Ban-

nister's decision to axe several leading DJs and move veteran Steve Wright from the premier norning programme.

interview with round-the-world Last week Evans extended his

walker Ffyona Campbell won the Interview of the Year trophy. The Music Presenter of the Year award went to Radio 3's Radio One contract, worth a re-Brian Kay for his Sunday mornputed £400,000, until the end of ing show.

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and no financial gobbledygook, what could be easier?

the company's first product - an index tracking Personal Equity Plan (or PEP for short) - was created as a result of Richard Branson's frustration with the financial services industry. "I read the personal finance pages for 20 years but could never find consistently good performance or fathom out all the meaningless jargon," explains Branson.

Jargon free zone

PEPs should be an imperior people's financial plans. But Virgin felt that PEPs should be an integral part of most their potential had never been realised mainly because of their packaging. "We researched nearly 1,000 PEPs and then designed one to beat them," adds Branson. "We found that the majority of people were simply put off by the

way PEPs were shrouded in meaningless financial jargon." Within a year of launch, Virgin's no-nonsense financial revolution had attracted over 50,000 savers looking for a well-balanced, conservative approach to stock market investment rather than chancing the thrills and spills of a speculative investment strategy.

On the right track

Virgin's strategy is completely straightforward. It doesn't rely on costly, fallible fund managers attempting to guess which shares will perform best. The Virgin Direct PEP tracks the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share Index, which covers more than 900 of the largest companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Simplicity

Tony Wood or virgin simple story: "We've made it incredibly simple o for individual investors to participate in the returns of the stock market while spreading the risk. The easy option is to leave spare cash in a current account, earning a pitifully low rate of interest. Most of us just can't be bothered to go through the hassle of looking for a better home for our savings, even though we know that it's the sensible thing to do. With history showing that shares tend to provide better returns than other types of investment over five years or more, our Growth PEP gives everyone the chance to reap

"But saving is boring!"

When Virgin Direct asked people who usually had spare cash in their current account at the end of each month why they weren't making more of their money, the answer was no surprise: "Saving is boring!" That's why Virgin Direct has put so much effort into making the normally tedious and complicated

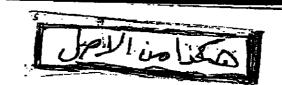
process as easy and painless as possible. "Basically, we've designed our regular savings PEP for people who know they really should be saving, but have never quite got around to doing anything about it!" says Tony Wood.

What's a PEP?

- Personal Equity Plans were designed as a
- Government savings incentive. They are based on investment in the stock market.
- Any profit from a PEP is entirely free of tax. ■ You can save up to £6,000 in a general PEP each tax
- You should be prepared to put your money away for
- at least five years... But your money can be withdrawn easily if you
- By investing on a regular monthly basis, savers can iron out the peaks and troughs of the stock market and reduce risk.

'At Virgin Direct, we've always had one single-minded aim: to offer straightforward, good quality products at the lowest possible price. We will not compromise on performance or customer service - and we refuse to have anything to do with salesmen and their outrageous commissions.'

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the region

300 branches to close: Four-day weeks to cope with 15,000 job losses

NatWest plan to share workload among staff

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

In a highly-unusual initiative to ease the pain of a massive "downsizing" operation, Na-tional Westminster Bank is negotiating a scheme to share the work among its employees.

Management and unions are hoping to thrash out an agreement on part-time working and the introduction of four-day weeks in order to cope with cuts estimated to mean the equivalent of 15,000 jobs.

The bank yesterday revealed to its 48,000 staff a three-year restructuring plan involving the increased use of new technology and the closure of 300 smaller branches out of 2,100.

However, the company gave a guarantee that there would be no compulsory redundancies this year and refused to accept union estimates of the extent of the cutbacks.

The announcement comes at a time when the banking industry as a whole is facing about 30,000 redundancies over the next few years. Other banks could now be forced to adopt NatWest's more co-operative

Senior Nat West sources confirmed there had been a change in managerial philosophy at the bank which was illustrated by the creation of a world-wide staff council. The forum was created in anticipation of a Brussels directive which would eventually have forced NatWest, along with other British-based multinationals, to create a works council.

Rory Murphy, general sec-retary of the NatWest Staff Association, said the bank should take the credit for involving unions in business decisions instead of announcing an "an-nual cull" of jobs. Management's business forecasts matched those of the association, he said.

"We know there are going to be job losses, but we don't want be standing in the middle of the M3 trying to stop the traffic. We want to ensure that with management co-operation the cuts are made fairly and equitably." Alan Ainsworth, chief negotiator at NatWest for the Bank-

ing Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) said senior man-

been exemplary. The new pol-icy is based on business imper-atives and a practical recognition that it is better to do it with the co-operation of the unions," he said. The bank had made pre-tax profits of £1.75bn in the year to December compared with £1.59bn in the previous 12 months and therefore should be

"Wouldn't it

be nice if the

approach to industrial rela- agers had abandoned their in the years to come, Mr Ains-

strategy of railroading cuts through as they did in 1992 when there were large scale rerector of NatWest's retail bankdundancies. Since 1991 more than 16,000 staff have left the ing subsidiary, refused to confirm union estimates of the bank - 4,400 of them last year. scale of cuts, but said the bank Mr Ainsworth said the new policy of was not based on alhad to face the fact that it needed fewer employees. "We betruism but self-interest. "Nat heve it is in the interests of staff, West's record so far has not shareholders and customers to have good relations with the people who work for us." He said the bank needed to

respond to the growing use of self-service banking through cash machines and by telephone. There was a continuous reduction in the number of people visiting many of the

According to Bifu, Barclays Bank has shed 21,800 staff since 1990, Lloyds 15,628 and able to undertake a restructuring exercise without making people compulsorily redundant



Burning ambition: Young Jeremy Way is fastened into the DB2, a contender for the Shell Helix Mileage Marathon at Mallory Park, Leicester, on July 19. Entrants will target the world fuel efficiency record of 7,591mpg.

Icast awar is Evans

DAILY POEM

Bike Ride on a Roman Road

By Alice Oswald

This Roman road - eye's axis over the earth's rococo curve – is a road's road to ride in a dream.

I am bound to a star, my own feet shoving me swiftly.

Everything turns but the North is the same.

Foot Foot, under the neck-high bracken a little random man, with his head in a bad controversy of midges flickers away singing Damn Damn

and the line he runs is serpentine, everything happens at sixes and sevens

and my two eyes are floating in the fields, my mouth is on a branch, my hair and I have had my heart distracted out of me, my skin is blowing slowly about without me

and now I have no hands and now I have no feet.

This is the road itself riding a bone bicycle through my head.

After reading Classics at university, Alice Oswald trained at Wisley as a gardener, and has since worked at Tapley Park and the Chelsea Physic Garden. Homer, she declares, made her a gardener, but gardening gave her her poetic subject. Carol Ann Duffy noted that "birds, weather, plants, are present in a thrilling way in both the language and the forms of her poems". This poem appears in *The Thing in the Gap-stone Stile*, published by Oxford University Press at £6.99.

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Doctors warn of transplant danger

LIZ HUNT

A group of doctors and lawyers is seeking to halt research into animal-to-human organ transplants because of the risks of transmitting unknown bacteria and viruses to man.

Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (DLRM) is appealing to the Government to impose a moratorium on xenotransplants until more is known about the effects on human health and the environment.

The first xenotransplant could take place here later this year, using an organ from a pig which has been genetically engineered to have human molecules in its tissues (known as transgenic transplantation). This will, in theory, reduce the chances of rejection. Some doctors believe that xenotransplantation is the only solution to the current severe shortage of donor organs.

But in a letter to Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, DLRM says: "Common sense should tell us that transgenic transplants actually represent one experimental technique (the production of transgenic animals) superimposed on yet another experimental technique (the transplantation of transgenic organs into human beings). This situation translates into a satisfied about potential risks.

is an exponential increase in un-

At its relaunch in London yesterday, the group – formerly an anti-vivisection pressure group known as Doctors in Britain Against Animal Experiments - warned that even the use of disease-free animals was no guarantee of safety. Dr André Menaché, presi-

dent of DLRM, said that viruses in a new environment may lie dormant, or mutate into dangerous new forms, or combine with human viruses. By introducing these unknown viruses - if they did indeed exist - in transplanted animal organs with human characteristics, the body's own immune system was circumvented, he said.

"We can't allow this sort of thing to be unleashed into the human population. Even if it threat to public health would far outweigh any possible benefits to a few individuals."

However, Imutran, the Cambridge-based company which is pioneering the production of transgenic animals, accused the group of scaremongering by a group of "recycled antiisectionists".

Christopher Samler, chief executive of Imutran, said no transgenic transplant would take place until the Government and medical establishment were



Family farm where time has stood still

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

For five generations Berthllwyd Farm has been owned by the Llewellyn family and in that time they have shunned the dictates of modern farming, en-suring the flora and fauna on their land reflects more the late 19th than late 20th century.

The conservation value of the 162-acre farm in the Brecon Beacons National Park has alLiewellyn staying on as tenants. Now, though, the economics

of the industry mean it is no longer viable to farm traditionally. And in a move that could be repeated on many of the trust's 1,200 other farms, in England and Wales, a strategy is being drawn up to subsidise the farming so that the environmental value of the site can

using a particular farming system have produced a farm of outstanding value. This is one of the most important farms the National Trust owns. It is a relic in the best sense. There are quite remarkable hay meadows, which in spring are full of wild

flowers and orchids." The trust wants the farm to remain as a working model, with ing is far more sustainable. We the people being regarded as see Berthllwyd as a bridge be-

acquired by the National Trust trust's property manager in important as any building or in 1992 with Jim and Janet South Wales, said: "Generations wildlife species. But it has enwildlife species. But it has encountered difficulties because the bulk of grants available are either to increase productivity or to mothball areas - neither of which is appropriate.

Philip James, the trust's land agent in South Wales, said: "We are keen to preserve the farm not as a remnant of the past, but because this way of farmrween the past and the future." A year's grace has already been found using the trust's funds while a long-term solution is sought. Negotiations are in hand with the Countryside Council for Wales to develop a 10-year plan. The council has already classified the farm as a site

of special scientific interest.
"If the National Trust had not bought the farm, we would have had to leave. We hope we can continue," said Mr Llewellyn.

Oyston jury inspects mansion THE INDEPLY.

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Jurors were taken by coach on a 70-mile trip yesterday to visit the country mansion home where the multi-millionaire businessman Owen Oyston is alleged to have raped two teenage models.

The trial judge, Mr Justice McCullough, counsel, and count staff accompanied the jury, together with Mr Ovston, on the journey from Liverpool Crown Court to secluded Claughton Hall - a loth century 50-roomed house, which is set in 1,500 acres in the Forest of Bowland near Lancaster.

Mr Oyston, 62, chairman of Blackpool Football Club, denies raping the two girls, both of whom were models with a Manchester agency. He denies at-tacking the first when she was 18, between January 1988 and December 1989, and raping and indecently assaulting the second girl, who was just 10, at the end of 1991.

The court was told last week that both were led to believe Mr.

Oyston could help their modelling careers.

The first model has spent nearly three days in the witness box being questioned over her claims, and is due to resume giving evidence today. The second, whom Mr Oyston is alleged to have forced into oral sex, has yet

to give evidence.
The jury was driven up the narrow country lane leading to the house, described by one of the alleged victims as "like a castle". Inside, they were shown the foyer, dining room and master bedroom - which contains the antique four-poster bed on which the rapes allegedly took place - together

News analysis, page 15 | ready been recognised. It was be preserved. Phil Park, the statistical nightmare, since there SPRING INTO SUMMER with the most eagerly awaited book of the season TROLLOPE Next of Kin BLOOMSBURY Also available, Her new novel in Black Swan

People feel cheated over care

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

The public's faith in state-led funding for care in old age has been seriously undermined by its extensive means-testing, a study funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation showed

yesterday.

The existence of the National Health Service and the obligation to pay tax and na-tional insurance has led people to expect that care for older

But they feel their nationalinsurance payments have been misused - paid out to provide care now rather than invested to provide a fund for care in the search, found.

And the present means-test- Government is due to publish

ing of savings and capital - in- a consultation paper next week cluding taking houses into ac-

count - is strongly resented.
"People felt they had been given a false promise by the state that long-term care for older people would be provid-ed free at the point of delivery." the study said.

were eligible for state aid. To win the support of the

public, the payments for any people would be free at the new system for long-term care point of delivery, the study should be dedicated to the should provide a guaranteed level of care, the study, which was carried out by by Social and Community Planning Re-

term care. Those who used part of their pensions, lump sums or insurance cover to provide themselves with long-term care will be allowed to keep an equivalent sum free of meanstests if they then need statefunded help.

But ministers have ruled out creating a new funded socialinsurance scheme to pay for long-term care.

tative discussion groups and not able support for some form of opinion polling - show the paym public are doubtful that the state can meet the demand for long-term care. There was some support for younger people, in particular, having to start The findings come as the planning to pay for their own care through insurance.

Others, however, opposed offering new public/private any form of private funding partnership" deals over longfor individuals to be asked to pay towards the "hotel" costs in care homes, with the nursing and social care provided free - an option expected to be trailed by an inquiry into longterm care by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which is due

to complete work shortly. And there are distinctly mixed attitudes to the family's responsibility to care for its el-The findings - from quali- derly relatives, with consider-

"society can no longer rely on the level of unpaid support currently provided," Rebecca Diba, the lead researcher on the project, said.



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have to amend legislation.



"What ex

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Tories hope for sea-change in once-blue resort

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Bournemouth is a resort of mixed and powerful emotion for the Conservatives. It was the scene in 1986 of their recovery from the doldrums of Margaret Thatcher's second term when "The Next Moves Forward" conference provided the springboard for her 1987 win.

It was there in 1990 that she dismissed the Liberal Democrats as a "dead parrot" days before they swept Eastbourne in a by-election and weeks before she fell as leader. And it was in May 1991 that the Liberal Democrats ended a century of Conservative control in the once true-blue town, taking control from the Tories to run a minority administration.

Now, a decade on from 1986. it is on Bournemouth and neighbouring Poole that the Tories are pinning their hopes of being able to claim that they have once again turned the corner - wresting back control in a contest which the Liberal Democrats believe will finally given them a majority on the council. It is a difficult contest to call.

Bournemouth council No overall control. Liberal De-

mocrat minority administration. liberal Democrats 26, Conservative 21, Labour 6, Independents 4. All out.

MPs. David Atkinson (C) Bournemouth East. John Butterfill (C) Boumemouth West.

Bournemouth has begun to recover from the recession, the Liberal Democrats pointing to £30m of private investment being drawn to the town in recent years. The centre looks brighter. The airport has been sold and redeveloped. Cycle ways, rubbish recycling and closed circuit television display the Liberal Democrats' green credentials and skill at pavement politics while this year the town managed a small cut in the council tax.

But along the beach at once genteel, now down-at-heel, Boscombe, the pier is closed, the crazy golf shut and the lavatories boarded up due to vandalism. The area displays some of the drink, drugs and prostitution problems usually linked to inner cities. Bournemouth as a whole is evidently

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less blue-rinsed than once it was.



thus defending seats won during the party's worst local gov-ernment performance - not those taken on the relative high of 1992 which form the core of tomorrow's contest elsewhere.

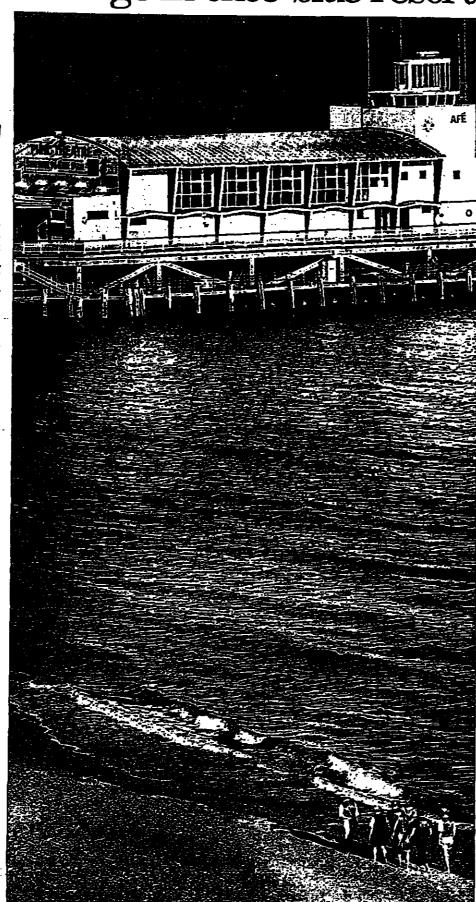
Added to that, last year Bournemouth bucked the trend the Tories holding what they held, dashing Liberal Democrat hopes of overall control. Noone is quite sure why. The Tory vote may have reached its bedrock bottom. But the Blair effect may have played its part.

Last year, Labour was the only party to raise its vote in every ward, a performance that produced no gains but leaves Ben Grower, the firmly left-ofcentre Labour group leader, hoping for additions to the six seats Labour holds. "A lot of people who voted Liberal just to get the Tories out have become much more confident in the national party and are beginning to come back to us. We don't get the animosity that we saw on the doorsteps in the middle Eighties," he argues.

But some of last year's anger with the Tories appears to have waned as well. David Atkinson, the genial Bournemouth East MP, out canvassing in a ward which looks as though it should be solidly Tory but has three Liberal Democrat councillors, still receives the odd earful. But else where there are smiles and pledges to turn out, offset by a sense that some of these will stay at home, reflecting the private assessment of Conservative agents that the reaction on the doorstep is at best "mixed".

Democrat leader, finds talk of a Tory revival "very hard to believe". The only real uncertainty, he says, is whether the Labour vote will harden at the Liberal Democrats' expense. "I can't see Labour making in-roads as such," he says, "but the odd hun-The Tories' high hopes are dredvotes here and there could pinned on the elections being be sufficient to let the lones back thority after last year's all-out hope in the once true-blue town

John Millward, the Liberal



politics Major rejects 'fantasy' of drawn knives

Local elections 'no threat' to leader ☐ Ashdown questions Tory loyalty

receive a thrashing in tomor-row's local council elections.

Talk of leadership ambitions stirring again in the breast of Michael Heseltine provided Labour backbenchers and Paddy Ashdown with useful ammunition for the last Question Time before polling day.

Mike O'Brien asked the Prime Minister if he had "ever discussed an understanding whereby if the Conservatives do not do well in the local government elections, he will make way for the Deputy Prime Minister?" The Warwickshire North MP said Mr Major would have the support of every Labour nember to stay on. The reply was standard Ma-

jor. "I suspect the honourable gentleman is in mischief-making mode, he said. Then, as Tory MPs shook their heads, he added: "Clearly he wasn't in mischief-making mode. Cleary he was just being silly." Mr Ashdown said it would

understand that it would be "totally unacceptable" if, once again. Conservative MPs should seek to change the Prime Min-

John Major shrugged off as fantasy" yesterday the latest bout of speculation that he might stand down if the Tories ister while denying the country the chance to change the Government. "Will Mr Major confirm that if after Thursday they seek to get rid of him, he will make sure that we have a chance to get rid of them?" the

Liberal Democrat leader asked. Of course Mr Major would confirm no such thing. "I fear Mr Ashdown is dealing in fantasy again," he replied.

George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, told the Prime Minister it was not just Mr Heseltine who was after his job. It's the Home Secretary [Michael Howard] and the Health Secretary [Stephen Dor-rell] as well," Mr Foulkes said. Tony Blair focused on a

leaked Home Office document

showing that, contrary to Mr

Howard's claims, crime has been rising - figures Mr Major said were not correct. But the Labour leader also included some election lines. "People are less safe in their homes, less secure in their jobs, less confident about the future. It is precisely because of that weakness and failure and incompetence that people will be so justified in punishing your party this Thursday," he said. Mr Major dis-

Inside **Parliament**

Stephen

missed the remarks as "a long time coming and not worth waiting for".

Goodwin

he most naked of Mr Ma-Lior's rivals, John Redwood had bounced up earlier during environment questions to do his bit for the Tory election cause "Thursday matters and people must vote Conservative for lower taxes," the former Secretary of State for Wales said.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, hac the figures. "It costs £225 a year more to have a Labour counci than it does to have a Conservative council," he said.

But Labour alleged support for councils was "skewed" to help Tory-controlled Westminster council. Hilary Armstrong an Opposition spokeswoman said that if the same level of support was given to Trafford council tax payers would get a £527 refund. £320 in Rochdale or £145 in Oldham. It was a "fiddle" and the voters knew it.

Late deal saves Housing Bill

JOHN RENTOUL

Political Correspondent

The Government avoided defeat by just two votes on its bat-tered Housing Bill in the Commons last night, after mak-ing a series of frantic behindthe-scenes concessions to backbench Conservative MPs.

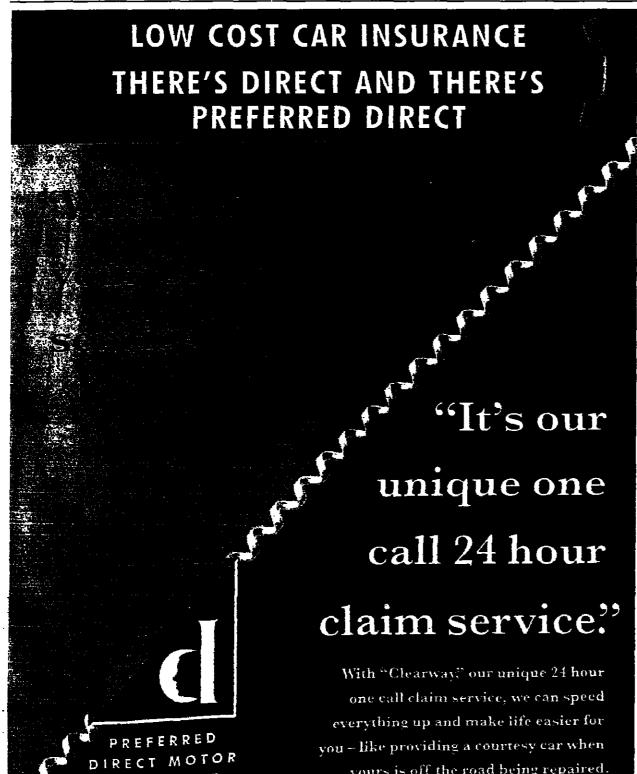
But it suffered an embarrassing defeat in a Labour ambush on a key Commons a rise in prescription charges.

Statutory Instruments voted 9- Michael Brown (Brigg and 8, with two Tory MPs absent, gainst the rise, in what Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, hailed as a victory in his campaign of "trench warfare" to harry the Government.

On the Housing Bill, John Gummer, the Secretary of State mally" treat a same-sea of the Environment, risked the relationship in the same way as fury of the Tory pro-family lob- a heterosexual one. This conby by conceding the principle of cession was enough to secure equal tenancy rights for homo- Mr Brown and Mrs Currie's

Cleethorpes) and Edwina Currie (Derbyshire South), ministers agreed to amend the wording of proposed guidelines for local councils.

The guidelines will recommend that councils should "nor-



INSURANCE

yours is off the road being repaired.



Tasmania massacre: As Hobart struggles to deal with its horror, a disturbing portrait of the gunman emerges

City feels killer's legacy of bitterness

ROBERT MILLIKEN

"An eye for an eye" reads the chilling, spray-painted slogan along the front wall of the Royal Hobart Hospital, Somebody has made a vain attempt to paint the slogan out. Meanwhile. however, hospital staff have received death threats for continuing to treat Martin Bryant for the burns he suffered when the Port Arthur holiday lodge. where he took three hostages and held police at bay in an 18hour siege, burned down. There is enormous bitterness and anger in Hobart.

As Tasmanians try to come to grips with the horror of the Port Arthur massacre, 28-year-old Bryant, the man accused of slaughtering 35 people in a Rambo-style shooting spree. lies in a Hohart hospital, where he was formally charged yesterday in a bizarre bedside court hearing. The charge re-lated to the murder of Kate Scott, a 21 year-old who was among the victims of the massacre last Sunday. Further

charges will follow. Helen Gray, of the Tasmanian nurses' association, said her colleagues were having a tough time reconciling their professional duties with their feelings of rage. Police stepped up security, as thousands of Hobart people prepared to stop work today to join an ecumenical

Howard, the Prime Minister, and other political leaders. Bryant lay silently in bed as he was charged. He entered no plea. Elsewhere in the same hospital 16 of the 19 people injured in the shooting spree were also

rious conditions. Newspapers around Australia splashed Bryant's photoyesterday, staring wistfully from beneath shoulderlength blonde hair. "This is the Man", announced the front page of the Mercury, of Hobart. "He Killed 35", declared the Herald Sun, in Melbourne. Face of a Killer, proclaimed the Australian.

receiving treatment, some in se-

Meanwhile, former friends and neighbours in Tasmania painted a disturbing portrait of Bryant as a complex young man, a loner who was alienated from his family, who inherited a fortune from a spinster twice his age and who had late- as an odd pair. They kept up to ly developed a morbid fascination with guns.

Bryant was born in Tasmania in May 1967. His father was a dock worker. While he was still at school, he became friendly with Helen Harvey, heiress to the Tattersalls gambling fortune. She became his benefactor and took him in to her mansion in the Hobart suburb of New Town, which Bryant later inherited from her, along with a farm at Copping, a hamlet near



Light in the darkness: Students light candles in St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart, to commemorate the dead of Port Arthur Photograph: Steve Holland

40 cats, dogs and birds on their farm as well as a pig which, locals claim. Bryant would sometimes sleep with. They would occasionally go for drives in one of Miss Harvey's expensive cars with a miniature pony in the back seat, which they would then take for walks in the coun-

When Miss Harvey died in a car crash near Copping about four years ago, she left Bryant property and other assets val-ued at about £300,000. His fa-

tryside around Port Arthur.

death, but their relationship was strained.

About a year after Miss Harvey died, Bryant's father went missing. Neighbours alerted police who found his body floating in a farm dam with lead diving weights around his neck. Some people were suspicious about both deaths, but no charges have ever been laid.

John and Sue Featherstone, farmers who live next door to the farm, which Bryant has since sold, have unhappy memories of their former neighther moved to the farm after her bour. Mr Featherstone said

vesterday that Bryant once invited his wife and daughter in for tea.

"Then he herded them outside and told them not to come back ever or he'd shoot them," he said. "He would go from being a 25-year-old to a 12-yearold delinquent kid, just like that. Miss Harvey once told us that he'd threatened to shoot his own father." The Featherstones reported their encounters and fears about Bryant to police, but their complaints were not followed up.

On Monday, when police

raided the deserted mansion in He was able to do so because New Town where Bryant lives, Tasmania's gun laws up to this they took away boxes of amweek had been the least remunition and a firearm. Phil strictive in Australia. Given the degree of public outrage over the killings. the Wilkinson, an inspector with the Hobart criminal investigation bureau, said yesterday: "He Tasmanian state government had developed a growing in-

firearms." Bryant is believed to have purchased his guns, including two semi-automatic militarystyle weapons used in the Port

vesterday announced that it would impose an immediate ban terest in firearms quite recently. It's my understanding that on the future sale of self-loadnone of his family knew he had

ing military weapons. Meanwhile, Australia's federal and state governments are to hold talks next week in a bid to introduce tough, uniform gun

Letters, page 16

Shot Briton's mother saw him on television

RORY McCARTHY Press Association

A British mother saw on television her injured son being carried away on a stretcher after

the shooting in Tasmania. Graham Collyer, 33, suffered serious facial injuries in the ed at the Royal Hobart Hospital. His girlfriend's daughter, 15-year-old Sarah Loughton,

Mr Collyer, originally from Nottingham, emigrated to Australia six years ago and now lives in Melbourne. He was on holof the shootings and should have been celebrating his birth-

day yesterday.
It is thought he was eating in a crowded café when the gun-

man began shooting. His mother, Diane Collyer, of Lilleker Rise, Arnold, Nottingham, said: "I saw him being carried on a stretcher. We wen just numb." She said Mr Collyer's aunt and uncle had flown out out to see him.

They called yesterday and

THE LOCAL ST.

ROBERT FISA

South African strikers halt traffic

Johannesburg — Strikers held up traffic and roughed up a po-litical leader in a bid to pressure last-minute negotiations on a new South African constitution.

But the one-day strike by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the country's largest union group, failed to generate much support na-tionwide as shops, banks and mines operated as normal. AP

Fires rage in US

Los Angeles — Wildfires fuelled by searing temperatures and gusting winds raged across the US, including one blaze threatening the Los Alamos nuclear research plant in New Mexico. Nuclear officials said there was no public health risk. Reuter Journalists resign

Warsaw — Leading journalists at the city's daily Zycie Warsza-wy announced they would quit, alleging that the new paper planned to curb criticism of the government dominated by ex-

"We have reasons to believe that this will not be a newspaper that tackles subjects that are uncomfortable for those in power." said an announcement signed by 35 departing journalists. Reuter

Tributes for panda

Madrid - Schoolchildren left flowers at the home of Chu-Lin, Madrid zoo's popular giant panda, a day after the bear's sudden death. Chu-Lin, which officials described as the first panda born in captivity in Europe, will be stuffed and put on display within a month. AP

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Briton held

Oradea - A British man, James Callaghan, has been arrested and charged with attempting to smuggle 15 Kurdish and Pakistani illegal immigrants across the Romanian border into Hungary in his truck, pros-

Jail for 'slave' pair Los Angeles — Two brothers

who helped run a sweatshop where 81 Thai nationals were held in virtual slavery while stitching clothes for department stores were sentenced to six years in prison. Warachai and Phanasak Manasurangkun were also ordered to pay \$4.5m in restitution to the workers, who had been held in the small apartment complex surrounded by a razor-wire fence.

Skeleton found

Monza — The body of a woman who lay dead in her flat for seven years has been discovered by her ex-husband. Graziella Villa's skeleton was found on a bed in a flat in the centre of this northem Italian town. Villa was last seen alive in 1989 when she was 47 years old.

Dam disruption

Peking — About 600 schools and 200,000 students face relocation due to the construction in China of the Three Gorges dam, the official China Daily said. Reuter

Dunblane 'copycat' theory divides experts

MICHAEL STREETER

Experts were divided vesterday over claims that the Tasmanian massacre may have been triggered by global TV and radio coverage of the Dunblane shootings in March.

Dr Guy Cumberbatch, senior lecturer in applied psychology at Aston University, described the suggestion by the FBI's chief psychiatrist. Dr Park TV coverage puts shooting in Deitz, that Martin Bryant's murder spree was a copycat

"To state that TV coverage of Dunblane is behind what hap- less "instant sensationalism" in pened in Tasmania is absolute the reporting of such events and nonsense. This man is simply a more sober approach.

speculating on what was going on in the mind of Martin Bryant. He doesn't know.

There is no place for this kind of psychiatry," said Dr Cumberbatch, an expert on violence and the media.

However, Dr Deitz's remarks, were supported by Dr Harry Jacobs, executive officer for the Society of Clinical Psyvery suggestible. This kind of everybody's mind, in your mind. in my mind. If one is a bit paranoid the idea is implanted."

He said he would like to see

Dr Deitz put forward his controversial theory in the United States, suggesting that Bryant may even have been consciously trying to heat the mimber of victims killed by Thomas Hamilton in Dunblane.

In a parallel argument, critics in the US also claim that the cult movie Natural Born Killers has triggered a number of copy-

Dr Deitz said: "Presumably what happened was this man was sitting in Australia watching the emotional television pictures from Dunblane and more than the mourning parchange policy and ban dangerous weapons,"

"He probably thought to himself, I am as powerful as he is. The world needs to know my suffering and feel my rage'.

Consultant clinical psychol-ogist Susan Hope-Borland said she believed there could be a link between TV coverage and later killings. "If something is brought to someone's attention then it becomes more salient in range of options."
However, Dr Cumberbatch

said that while the link between TV coverage and later killings was theoretically possible, there was simply no evients he saw people vowing to dence of the "clusters" of massacres which such a connection would cause.



Dunblane influence him?

iday in Port Arthur at the time

said he was making good progress. He is conscious and as comfortable as can be." Her son is a former signwriter for a Not-

This week in This week and every week,

Section Two has a new look, with more pages, new features, a daily radio column and an expanded listings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to going out.

on Monday

A new regular section, Family Life, that deals with the interests and problems of parents and children. Julie Myerson's column also focuses on home life Plus: a new series - Do we need? - which challenges the icons of modern Britain

And, every, Monday unrivalled coverage of the expanding world of information technology in our Network pull-out section.

A 24-page tabloid section with all the action from the weekend's sporting action. Plus: the Monday interview in which a leading figure comes under the microscope, an unbeatable results service, gossip, speculation and fact from behind the scenes and the best in sports.

on Tuesday

Health: how wearing a virtual reality helmet could help cure phobias and other psychological problems.
Plus: flaky nails are not simply a problem for the vain

but a sign of ill-health, so what can be done about them? Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media.

Wednesday

Bridget Jones's diary continues to chronicle the encounters and exquisite embarrassments in the life of Britain's most-read spinster. Plus: the midweek travel section, your money, finance

and law. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

on Thursday

All our regular features, including Virginia Ironside's Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 101/2 inches

on Friday

24Seven - a new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus: eight pages of pop and classical music



Israel's victims buried to wails of rage

ROBERT FISK

Fires rage at

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Tributes for:

Briton heir

Son ie fen ..

Dem design

The coffins floated across the square on the uplifted palms of a thousand hands, eddying from side to side towards the mass grave of concrete and sand; and carried as they were on this human tide, the lids would slide off and the Lebanese flags would drift away onto the mourners and inside we would see the dead, wrapped in plastic sheets, sometimes so small that they could be taken from the coffin with one hand. There were at least 91 of them - although plastic bags contained parts of several bodies - and they were all laid gently below the wall of the UN battalion headquarters in which they were slaughtered by Israeli shellfire 12 days earlier.

In the Arab world, the dead are taken from their coffins and laid in the grave in mere shrouds. And yesterday, it was not the approaching funeral cortege that overwhelmed us with the sheer scale of the massacre but the empty thud of the used coffins as they were steadily piled to the right of the square, a hollow drumbeat that echoed dozens of times above the chanting of "God is Greater" and the angry roar of the mourners when a civil defence worker took a baby in a plastic bag out of its coffin. And all the while, the Fijian UN soldiers under whose protection these refugees died, stood on the roof of their wrecked compound and watched in silence.

"So many of these people were friends of ours," one of them whispered to me. "Do you see the girl in black?" He pointed to a young woman sitting on the edge of the grave, her feet hanging over the side, weeping and holding two framed photographs which she repeatedly kissed. "That is Leila Jaber. They killed her father and her sister." Another, older woman screamed in grief and tried to climb into the grave. A sea of upstretched hands sought to touch each coffin as it rode the swell above the crowds and when the Lebanese flags, red and white with a green cedar tree in the centre, fell off, young men would bind the flags around their waists or wrap them round their heads, less in patriotism than in the old tradition of giving life to some. object associated with the dead.



United in grief: Coffins of some of the 120 Qana camp slaughter victims being carried along to a mass funeral by a sea of mourners

while, at the back of the crowd, from a side road, there emerged the tieless figure of the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, surrounded by bearded body-guards. He was shown the shellsplattered walls of the UN compound and he watched for several minutes as the coffins moved into the square. Then he departed. Only one man tried to bring a Hizbollah flag to the funeral but the mourners, knowing that three Hizbollah men fired two Katyusha rockets 350 yards from the UN base just two minutes before the Israeli shells cut the refugees to

pieces, drove him away. Most, though not all, of the

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cates, one from his long-time starts in September.

Lebanese national anthem Hizbollah's Shia Muslim rival, and on the day before the funeral, both sides had fired shots in the air after disputing the other's right to fly their par-ty flags. In the event, both the black, green and red Amal banner and the yellow and green flag of Hizbollah hung in the streets of the village. The Lebanese colours on the coffins at least preserved the neutrality of the dead. Only one placard was carried

by a mourner, a hand-written slogan which carried the words "History repeating itself" alongside a Swastika and a Star of David. For, however much Qana people may show their distaste for the Hizboliah, it is

April 18 massacre and at whom their fury was directed yesterday. Some chanted "Death to Israel", although it was Sheikh Mehdi Shamsedin, the leader of the Shia Muslim sect in Lebanon who condemned the Israelis at the earlier, official memorial ceremony in the ancient Roman hippodrome at Tyre. "The Jews have created another Holocaust Lebanon," he said.

However much the Israelis will be infuriated by such an assertion, and they chose yesterday, of all days, to announce that their own enquiry into the massacre absolved them of blame, it will be many years before the people of southern squeaked out a version of the people of Qana support Amal, Israel that they blame for the 18 Lebanon can put this slaughter Lebanese parliament stood in the wreckage of their is no place for soldiers now.

behind them. Indeed, the dead were exalted as symbols of national unity at the Tyre ceremony, which was attended by Rafig Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister, Nabih Berri, the speaker of parliament, and leading Muslim and Christian clergymen. "These martyrs represent our country," Mr Shamsedin said, "They ascended to God because of the Israeli assault." And then, praying over the coffins lined up before the Arch of Hadrian, he added: "We are not saying

sciousness. Hizbollah members of the

good-bye to you, because you

remain with us and your spirits

will always be a part of our con-

close to Mr Shamsedin. And close to Mr Hariri, tears running down his face, stood the unmistakable figure of General Ghazi Kenaan, the head of Syrian army intelligence in Lebanon. President Hafez al-Assad of Syria was represented by Wahib

al-Fadel, one of his senior ministers, the UN by 12 soldiers from each of the international contingents in southern Lebanon, including troops from Norway, Ireland, Ghana, France, Fiji and Nepal. Thus did the armies of three European countries, two of them Nato members, pay honour to the dead of Qana.

As for the soldiers still living

signs 'terror' accord

STEVE HOLLAND Reuter

Washington - President Bill Clinton played host to the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, yesterday to sign a counter-terrorism accord as the White House denied Mr Clinton was openly campaigning for Mr Peres re-election.

"It has nothing to do in our view with Israeli politics. White House spokesman Mike Mc-Curry said of Mr Clinton's second meeting in three days with Mr Peres, enmeshed in a reelection campaign against Ben-jamin Netanyahu, leader of the

right-wing Likud Party.
Mr Clinton and Mr Peres, who also met on Sunday, were to sign a counter-terrorism accord that formalises US support for Israel in combating guerril-la attacks such as the suicide bombings that killed 59 people in nine days in Israel.

When Mr Clinton visited Israel in March after attending an anti-terrorism summit of world leaders at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, he pledged \$100m (£66m) in US assistance.

The accord arose from talks that Secretary of State Warren Christopher and CIA director John Deutch held with their Is-

raeli counterparts in Jerusalem. "It will put in place steps that we can take together with the government of Israel to combat terrorism and enhance the security of citizens in Israel but also the United States," Mr Mc-Curry said.

The two leaders were also to discuss ways to move ahead the Middle East peace process in the wake of a US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hizbollah in southern Lebanon.

Mr Clinton's sessions with Mr Peres sparked charges in Israel that the President was openly campaigning for the Israeli Prime Minister.

Israel Channel Two TV called Mr Clinton's actions "an unprecedented mobilisation of support ... by a US president in favour of an electoral candidate in a democratic country".

Not so, said the White House. "The President would never attempt to interfere in the domestic political environment of another country. Mr McCurry said.

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kindly and thoughtful Fijians,

many of whom have learned

Arabic during their tours of duty

in Lebanon - they have been

opening their base to mourners

in the morning to six in the

evening, thousands of them.

and we are friendly to them and

let them walk around to see

where the refugees died," one

Fijian officer said quietly yes-

terday. "Frankly, I think we'll

just have to move our head-

quarters from here. With the

mass grave beside us, this is go-

ing to be a place of pilgrimage

and tens of thousands of peo-

ple are going to come here. It

They come in here from six

for three days already.

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Lesson in peace for boy soldiers

Freetown — The physical scars which 12-year-old Safia Kumba carries after his ordeal as a child soldier with the Sierra Leone army are plain to see: multiple marks on his head and deep welts on his shoulder from machete wounds inflicted by the rebels who left him for dead in the bush. What mental damage he might have incurred is harder to detect but psychiatrists at the Benin home for demobilised child soldiers in the capital, Freetown, are pleased with his progress. He still has nightmares, but after three months at the centre he is mixing well with the 156 other young residents.

"I'm learning to read and write here", said Safia, "Soon I'll go to live with my relatives. When I grow up I would like to be a tailor. I cannot use my arm properly but I think that job does not need too much strength.

Safia was nine when he joined the army. His father was killed when Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels attacked and burned his village in the interior. Senarated from his mother, whose whereabouts is unknown, Safia attached himself to an army unit which trained him to spy on rebel positions. He was captured by the rebels last year while on a

soldiers like Safia in Sierra Leone, which has been riven by civil war since 1991. The RUF and the government last month agreed to extend a ceasefire first signed in March but a peace accord has yet to be reached.

Unicef, the United Nations children's fund, estimates there are 2,500 child combatants in Sierra Leone, whose law proscribes enlistment of soldiers under the age of seventeen-anda-half. Most child fighters are on the rebel side; only 370 of them have been officially demobilised by the army, though another few hundred left of their own accord. No more than a handful of children serving with the RUF have been freed. As many as 1,500 chil-dren, abducted by the rebels from their villages, are still liv-

all traumatised to various de- month psycho-social coun-

David Orr sees the effect on children forced to fight in Sierra Leone's civil war



Young warrior: Safia Kumba, now 12, who was nine when he joined the Sierra Leone army after rebels killed his father

grees", said Father Michael Hickey, Irish director of Children Associated with the War (CAW), which runs the Benin centre. They've raped, killed and tortured. Most of them were given alcohol or drugs, mostly marijuana, but sometimes heroin. Often their food had gunpowder put in it to make them fearless. You can imagine the terrible effect such things have on the minds of children, some of them as young as eight

The children who are taken The kids we've dealt with are into care by CAW undergo a six-

selling course before they are resettled with their families. With orphans, of which there are many, efforts are made to locate their nearest relatives. In addition to the Benin centre in Freetown, CAW runs a project in Bo, in the interior. Having reunited 100 children with their families last week, the Bo centre will now take in another

In most cases, the children require little persuasion to leave the army. So far, CAW has only rehabilitated children from the government forces, some 500 to date. It hopes the ceasefire will and suffer from guilt feelings. A few are severely depressed,

bring the release of children held by the rebels.

"When we first see them they're hyperactive and have a very short attention span," said Tamba Matturi, a consultant psychiatrist with CAW. "They're unruly, they often wet their beds at night and they have nightmares. A lot of them have flashbacks to the time they were at the front and they show signs of extreme anxiety. These kids were forced to commit terrible atrocities, like behead-

though most like talking about what they have been through."

The RUF, launched with the backing of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, has relied heavily on child fighters in its campaign to destabilise the country and overthrow the government. The unformed minds of young conscripts prove re-ceptive to indoctrination in the most barbarous of guerrilia methods, particularly when fortified with drink and drugs. "A lot of children have con-

fessed to atrocities", said Cornelius Williams, of Unicef. "They have participated in attacks on villages where the inhabitants were butchered. We have also had reports of cannibalism and of children being

forced to drink the blood of

reception centres for child soldiers but the success of securing the release of those held by the RUF depends on the progress of the peace process. Crucially, the populace has to be persuaded to accept them back into the community: a number of child soldiers coming out of the bush have been victims of revenge attacks.

Finland calls time on drunk awaydays

ADRIAN BRIDGE

Thousands of thirsty Finns packed ferry boats to Estonia yesterday to stock up on duty free drink ahead of tough new import restrictions due to come into force today.

According to a representative of the Talling Ferry company in Helsinki, all four crossings to Tallinn were fully booked as customers sought to take advantage of the old regulations one final time. "We have been fantastically busy in the days leading up to the new rules," said the rep-resentative. "And it is pretty clear why people have been go-

ing across."

Since Estonia regained its independence in 1991, it has become a magnet for heavy drinkers from Finland seeking to avoid the country's 65 per

cent tax levy.

Gangs of drunken Finnish revellers have become a regu-lar sight in the streets of Tallinn and journeys home on ferry boats and even planes are sel-

been spent out of the country.
The immediate targets will be
the day-trippers to Tallian and
nearby Russia, where even
greater bargains on alcohol are to be found.

dom made without the maxi-

mum allowances of spirits,

Under the new regulations,

the import of duty free alcohol

ble only if at least 20 hours has

wines and beers.

The law will also restrict sales of duty free alcohol within Finland itself. This will be aimed primarily at Russians who have been entering the country with truck loads of elicit liquor to sell off to eager takers at impromptu market places which have been dubbed

Red Squares". The combined effect of "alcohol tourism" and the "Red Squares" has been to slice 1bn markka (£140m) from annual tax revenues channelled through Alko, the State company which has a monopoly on alcohol sales in Finland.

Belarus clampdown

Europe Editor

The pro-Russian government of Belarus yesterday imposed short jail sentences and fines on dozens of opposition activists arrested last week after demonstrating against their country's drift towards union with Russia.

The crackdown had the clear approval of President Alexander Lukashenko, who advocates rapid integration with Russia, and who said after last Friday's protest that he intends

to ban all demonstrations. The protest was timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, which inflicted huge economic damage on Belarus and left it ill-prepared for independence when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. However, the rally quickly turned

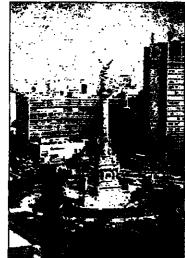
into one of the largest anti-government demonstrations of Mr Lukashenko's two-year-old presidency, with up to 50,000 people on the streets of the capital, Minsk.

Police dispersed the crowd with batons and several dozen people were reported injured. About 200 demonstrators were arrested, of whom roughly half were quickly released.

The main force behind the demonstrations was the Belarussian Popular Front (BPF). Its leader, Zenon Poznyak, toki the crowd Mr Lukashenko's drive to unite Belarus with Russia represented "a quiet occu-pation of Belarus by Russia".

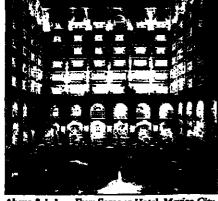
Mr Poznyak went into hiding after the protests and police later raided the BPF headquarters. A party spokesman said the tac-tics indicated Mr Lukashenko could be about to ban the BPF.

SEVEN EXOTIC HOLIDAYS TO



Mexico City

WIN A TRIP TO MEXICO



Above & below, Four Seasons Hotel, Mexico City



ach day this week The Independent is giving away a fabulous holiday for two. We have teamed up with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Trailfinders and Four Seasons ◆ Regent Hotels and Resorts, the world's leading luxury hotel group, to offer you the chance to win one of seven superb prizes to a variety of worldwide desti-

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vard, the Four Seasons is nestled between the Zona Rosa, Mexico City's exclusive shopping and en-tertainment district, museums and Chapultepec Park. In traditional Spanish Colonial style, colonnades surround the Hotel's internal courtyard, which showcases a decorative fountain and lush gardens, which over 200 of the 240 guest rooms face. The Hotel blends Mexican and European heritage to echo Reforma's stately charm and grace, featuring French salon-style interiors complete with Mexican objets d'art.

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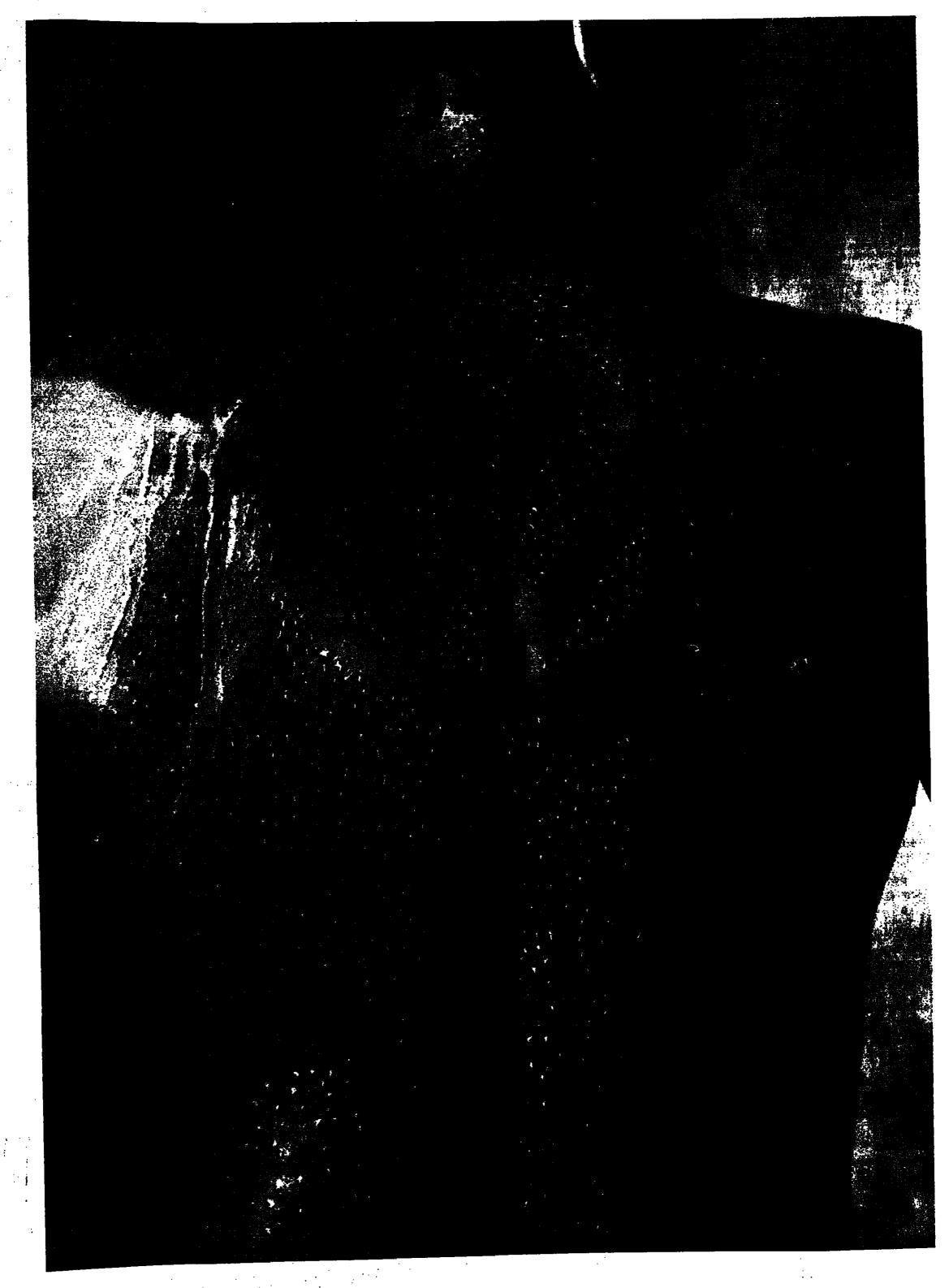
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Arithmetic of death that does not add up

Missing in Bosnia: Casualty figures vary, but blame has to be allotted, writes Emma Daly

Sarajevo — "History starts tinue; an assessment, there-now, said Admiral Leighton fore, of the rights and wrongs Smith, the Nato commander. shortly after the Dayton peace deal was signed in December. "We don't want to go back in time or dig up old wounds." In the months that followed, that reluctance to address the past has become a standard Western line. There is a sort of peace in Bosnia today, but those charged with implementing the peace frequently seem eager to draw a line under what came before.

In some respects, the news and images that have emerged from Bosnia have echoed Nazi Germany: the emaciated prisoners gazing through wire fences, the organised busing of Muslim prisoners to killing sites, the charges of genocide against members of the Bosnian Serb leadership.

But there is one big difference in the conflict that has produced the first war-crimes trials since Nuremberg. On this occasion, unlike in 1945, the winners are not trying the losers. This was a draw, imposed by international referees.

But, as Dayton can be read as the foundation of a united, multi-national Bosnia or as the acceptance of ethnic partition, the agreement has not answered the question that sparked the war: one country or two? (Or even three, if one factors in the Bosnian Croats). The attitudes and policies

that fuelled the conflict con-

fore, of the rights and wrongs of the war is necessary to aid the implementation of the peace. British officials, in particular. have long been keen to fudge the issue: to present the Bosnian war as an internal conflict in which good and bad, right and wrong, have played no part. "They're all bastards," said one officer, reflecting the implied official sub-text.

It is notable, however, that most Western civilians working in Bosnia throughout the war. on both sides of the line, have concluded there is a significant difference between the government side and the separatist Serb leadership in Pale. (The Bosnian Croat leadership, sharing Pale's desire for union with a neighbour, shared many of its sins.)
"It's not black and white,"

said a diplomat involved in the negotiations. "They [the British] tried to make it all grey and it isn't - there are significant shades involved." The fact that the indictments issued by the war-crimes tribunal are disproportionately addressed to Serbs is testimony to the facts on the ground and the bodies

below ground. ing in the war for their side and 175,286 wounded on its territory. It estimates 70,000 to 80,000 Serb dead. Pale does not release its figures. These totals



The body of a Muslim, killed trying to approach his former house, is carried away yesterday near Sjenina village, in a Serb-controlled area

are probably high; the foreign official estimated the figures to The Bosnian government claims 156,827 dead and miss- dead and perhaps 15.000 to 20,000 Serb dead.

When it comes to implementing the peace, the government side is undoubtedly guilty of many violations, of du-

liars," said another British officer. This may be true. But not all have practised genocide.

This is not to say either that Muslim soldiers did not kill civilians or harass minorities, nor to As one Serb, a former unisay that the Serb people are evil. But it is indisputable that the

plicitous tactics. "They're all Pale leadership openly sought ed: "It's not the same. Really, is that the Bosnian government liars," said another British of- to expel or exterminate all non- that's a joke. It's not the same, was restrained by opportunity, Serbs on its territory, and the Bosnian government, by contrast, sought to hold the comtry, and its people, together.

There are two principal views versity lecturer (and no lover of espoused by those who say eign official with long experi-they're all the same". The first ence in Bosnia. "If you adjust the Bosnian government), not-

was restrained by opportunity, The comparison between a fascistic regime and one that wanted to be declared democratic is not a good one."

not by policy. But this does not appear to hold true. "If you take actual numbers of war crimes committed, the Serbs are the worst by a long way," said a for-eign official with long expericample comparing villages tak-en by the Serbs with villages tak-en by the Muslims ... you get a picture where the Serbs are still

Bosnian government fooled us all by telling us what we want-ed to hear - that all Bosnians should be able to live in one state, regardless of nationality. As it happens, that sentiment is more or less upheld by policy. But even if Sarajevo is mere-

ly spouting off to keep us happy, one should perhaps be grateful that at least one side knows what the civilised, liberal view is. The Bosnian Serbs and many Croats are openly racist in their contempt and disgust for the Muslims, or Thrks", as they are known.

Unfortunately for those try-ing to implement the Dayton acmg to impendent the Dayton ac-cord, the Pale leadership (which did not sign the plan but was forced into submission by Pres-ident Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia) is clearly clinging to the old philosophy.

There are officials in the

Serb entity who are working for a resolution, who see a future in a post-war Bosnia - but they are not in charge.

Dayton will only succeed in

an atmosphere as free as possible of mutual recrimination, but drawing a diplomatic veil over the recent past will not change it. "Blame is for God and children," said one Nato spokesman. None the less, without any attempt to apportion blame, it may prove impossible to move towards a juster future. Only if we remember the wav things were, can we help to shape the way things should be.

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Abbé apologises in row over the Holocaust

Abbé Pierre, the French campaigner for the poor and the homeless, yesterday retracted statements supporting the re-visionist distorian Roger Garandy, after an outcry from Jewish leaders, politicians and

who tried to "deny, falsify or play down the Holocaust" The priest, better known for

his extreme left-wing views, issued his statement after meeting the Chief Rabbi of France and the President of the Board of Deputies of French Jews. The controversy erupted

not to exclude foul play. As the agency's director

between 1973 and 1976, Mr Col-

by made more than his share of

enemies both outside and with-

assassination plots abroad and

phere of the unfolding Water-

clean-up was the way forward,

Mr Colby earned widespread

dislike in the CIA's upper ech-

elons as he violated the agency's

unwritten code of silence and

forced out several barons of its bureaucracy who operated their own entrenched fieldoms,

With his insistence that a

Abbé Pierre, 83, said he when Abbé Pierre, who fought in the Resistance and helped Jews escape abroad, went into print in support of Garaudy's latest book, The founding myths of Israeli politics, which argues that the six million Jewish deaths in concentration camps is an exaggeration, used by Israel to foster a sense of na-

died in epidemics and bombines rather than in death-camps.

The abbé, a friend of Garaudy, told Liberation there should be a Holocaust debate, so that Jewish deaths could be placed in the context of the "20 or 30 million people" the Nazis killed. He admitted, however, that he had only read a sumtionhood. He claims many Jews mary of the book.

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Divers step up the search for ex-CIA chief

RUPERT CORNWELL

Search teams, divers and specially trained dogs scoured the Wicomico river in southern in its ranks. He laid bare agency Maryland yesterday in a secrets to congressional invesrenewed attempt to find tigators probing alleged CIA William Colby, the former CIA wrongdoing - involving secret director who is believed to have died in a boating accident at the weekend.

illegal wire-tapping of journal-ists and others within the US -Mr Colby, 76, who led the all in the impassioned atmosagency through some of its phere of the unfolding Watergate scandal. darkest hours under the White House reigns of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, went missing on Saturday evening.

He had taken to the waters in a canoe at his weekend home in the tiny community of Rock Point, where the Wicomico joins the Potomac river some 40 miles south of here.

All the signs point to him drowning, probably when his boat capsized in rough waters whipped up by the strong winds which were gusting at the time. The canoe has been recovered and searchers are now concentrating their efforts on Mr Col-by's favourite routes, shown to Admiral Stansfield Torner, said them by his wife, Sally Shelton Colby, who was in Texas when the hunt for her husband began.

Alerted to his disappearance, neighbours found an unfinyellow-painted home. A computer and other appliances a lifejacket with him. on Saturday afternoon, he com-

plained of feeling slightly un-

beyond the director's control. For all the controversy which surrounded him, the former wartime agent never doubted he was doing the right thing. "He had the most difficult job of any CIA chief in history, and did it

At Rock Point, Mr Colby lived a private, almost reclusive existence. The few residents who knew him said he was an ished meal and a glass of wine excellent boatsman who would on the kitchen table of the not take unwarranted risks with excellent boatsman who would the weather. He invariably had

earlier this week.

were left on, suggesting that Mr Colby planned to return soon. In a last phone call to his wife, the local county sheriff, "but we're not ruling out foul play we never rule out foul play well, but even so, enough until we've found the body and peculiarities persist for police perform an autopsy".

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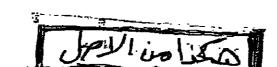
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she said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro-have to amend legislation."



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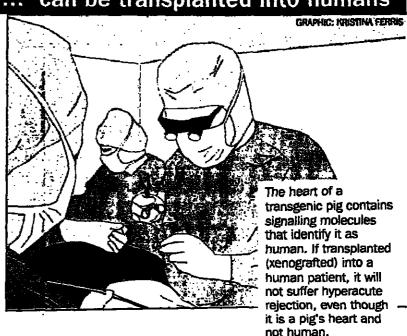
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Himan genes injected into a pig's ovum ... can breed pigs with hearts that ... can be transplanted into humans

The human gene is

incorporated into the DNA of only a few eggs, but if these animals are subsequently bred their offspring will also have the "transgene". No more genetic engineering need be done; a pure line can be established by selective breeding.



Could a pig save your life?

A doctors' group opposed to animal-human organ transplants was launched yesterday. Tom Wilkie examines a medical and moral controversy

What is xenotransplantation*? do better than supplement rather than your kide'ys are failing. If you are lucky and your you may have the option of donating adult population are in favour of donating their organs but only 25 per cent carry a donor card. Close relatives turn down one donor card. Close relatives turn down one which are close together on the evolutionlucky and your you may have the option of dialysis. Anther possibility might be to have the kidnys of a specially reared pig transplanted to your body. Which would you go for? This is xenotransplantation: the use of organiaken from an animal to treat a human bong with terminal disease. No one in Britis has been treated in this way, although it as been tried in the US.

Is humanigan transplantation worth it? Transplants organs from human to human saves thorands of lives in Britain each year. The numer of operations has risen and the outlook it the recipients has been getting better. Its is not because surgeons have become etter at stitching new organs into the bodout because better drugs are available t/suppress the immune system's attemp to reject the organ as "foreign". The rist notable advance was the drug cyclosprin which became available at the start the 1980s. But as the success rate impried, it opened the way for new demand for thoperation and that in turn created a

chroc shortage of organs to transplant. In 978, 765 kidney transplants were perfound in the UK and Ireland, but 1,274 peoe remained on the waiting lists. In 1994, theumber of transplants had increased to 1.7. but the waiting list had risen to new 5,000. One estimate for the US is that thunmet demand for organs for transplant is mning at about 100,000 a year.

Diransplants work? Yi. More than 70 per cent of recipients of hman kidneys are still alive five years after the transplant. World-wide there are patients wose lives have been considerably extended hiransplant: by 28 years after a liver transplant and 20 years after a heart transplant.

re there alternatives to transplants? idney dialysis requires lengthy sessions I treatment eich week and restrictions diet and tralel, yet it cannot prevent a eneral decrase in health. Various levices are under development to help neart patient, but these are unlikely to

induce a mature sow to produce many eggs

by fertility treatment, and

then mate her with the boar.

Gently wash out the fertilised eggs,

into which many copies of the human gene

are injected using a very fine glass needle.

This process is called transgenesis. The aim

grow a heart that would be accepted by the

is to give the pig genes that mean it will

Are transplants cost-effective?

Transplants are cheap, compared to the alternatives. A kidney transplant costs about £10,000. The recipient has to take drugs thereafter to stop the immune system from rejecting the (human) transplant. This costs about £3,000 a year. Dialysis costs £18,000 a year in hospital and £11,000 a year at home.

Why is there a shortage of human organs? Frankly, because not enough young people are dying in road traffic accidents any-more. Improved road safety has reduced the number of sudden deaths and thus of organs suitable for transplant. When we die of old age or disease, our organs are unlikely to be fit for transplantation.

So is there no way of increasing supply? Opinion polls show that 70 per cent of the

1964 Six patients received chimpanzee

1964 Six patients received baboon kidneys.

1984 Baby Fee received a baboon heart.

1992 Patient received a beboon liver

1993 Patient received a baboon liver

1995 Aids patient received a baboon bone marrow transplant in December. He left hospital

in January 1996, at which point it was not known

whether the transplant had been successful

kidneys. Most died within days. One survived nine months

All died within two months

She survived 20 days

and survived 70 days

and survived 26 days

out of every three requests by a doctor to remove organs for transplantation from someone who has just died. In Belgium and Singapore the law presumes that everyone is a donor unless they have registered their refusal to donate. But the Department of Health believes that such a law would be too intrusive in the UK.

Surely animal organs would not work? The human immune system rejects "foreign" tissues. If the transplant comes from a different species the reaction will be hyperacute and can destroy the organ in minutes. But the closer an animal is to humans on the evolutionary scale, then the less likely the human immune system is to have a hyperacute reaction to the grafted organ. So the ideal animal to supply organs to humans would be the chimpanzee, from which

Other animals

1964 The first UK pig heart valve transplant

1992 Patient received pig heart and survived

1994 Ten Swedish diabetic patients received

pig foetal islet cells. In four patients, the pig cells survived for up to 14 months. Insulin produced at extremely low levels

1995 Four Parkinson's patients received

pig foetal neural tissue in the US

took place. Now a routine operation

1968 Patient received sheep heart and

A short history of animal transplants

All operations took place in the US

taking the immuno suppressive drugs necessary for human-to-human transplants.

Aren't chimpanzees an endangered species? Yes, so attention is switching to other animals. In the US, researchers are investigating baboons. In Britain, a company called Imutran is working with pigs. Imutran is genetically engineering the pigs so that the man immune system will be fooled into thinking that the pig's organ is human.

Is rejection the only risk?

No. Animals may harbour viruses or bacteria which are harmless to the animal but

which, transplanted into a human who is receiving drugs to suppress their immune system, might cause disease. The patient may then unwittingly infect other people at the extreme, there is the risk of creating breed very slowly, with a female producing

ary scale. Disease cross-over from one species to another is well known. The Aids epidemic is believed to result from the transmission of a monkey virus into humans. Malaria, one of the most devas-tating diseases to afflict humanity, appears to have originated thousands of years ago as a cross-over from an infection in birds.

Can this risk be eliminated?

Perhaps by ensuring that organs are taken from animals that have been raised under conditions that are so far as is practicable disease free. But baboons, like us, are social animals - if they had to be raised in isolation for quarantine purposes, it might be psychologically cruel. Unlike chimpanzees. baboons are not endangered in the wild although their habitat is under threat. They

one offspring every 15 months. Yet with a demand for 100,000 organ transplants a year in the US, the need to capture wild baboons to establish breeding colonies for transplantation could tip them into extinction.

So it's genetically engineered pigs for us? The risk of disease is smaller than with baboons. And we are accustomed to farming pigs for their meat, so moral objections to using them for organs are less acute. They breed faster, so demand for organs would be met more quickly.

Will organs from animals "work" in humans?

No one has yet proved that an animal's organ will grow and function properly within a human. A pig's heart might work – because the heart is basically a pump – whereas a liver or pancreas might not, because these organs carry out complex biochemical functions where slight differences may be very important. Pigs have another advantage: their organs are about the same size as a human's.

Who will decide whether these transplants should go ahead?

In March, the authoritative independent Nuffield Council on Bioethics published a meticulously researched but readable report on the ethics of xenotransplantation. The council ruled out the use of baboons and recommended strict controls, warning that for years to come any such transplants would be experiments with human beings rather than treatment of proven efficacy. The Department of Health has an Advisory Group working on the issue too. Just last week, it organised a meeting of many of the country's leading experts to consider the risks of infectious diseases from xenografting. Its report in June should lay the basis for legislation. There is no specific legal pro-hibition against transplants but it is inconceivable that doctors would go ahead with such a treatment without legal safeguards.

'Animal to Human Transplants - the Ethics of Xenotransplantation' is available from the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EG, price £10.

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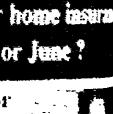
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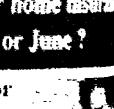
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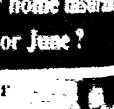
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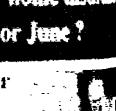
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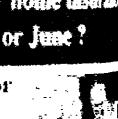
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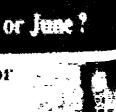




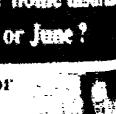


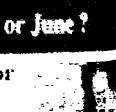


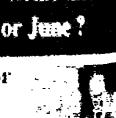




or line!







Firs, find your

gas showroom Richard Giordano, the chairman of British sas, received a terrible hammeringit yesterday's AGM, where one sharehider even criticised his £470,000 annua/salary "You are paid that just for a tiree-day week," he was reminded by Toy Augarde, a freelance writer from saford. One trembles to think of the dimage that might have been done

Oir own investigations, however, shor that British Gas has a secret and potentially highly effective strategy to tacile the problem of customer com-plants, which have doubled since last year. Brian Simpson, of north London, tells us of his intrepld struggles to buy a cooker from British Gas. He was first obstructed by their shop closure programme; then, when he finally tracked down one of the last surviving showrooms in London (it address and number were apparently ex-directory), he was further frustrated, first by an assistant who denied knowledge of the cooker model that Britis Gas had been advertising the previou day ("They never tell us nuffink," washis helpful line), and then by worknen who told him he couldn't have a ooker in the space available, even though one had been happily operating ther for half a century. The final advice from the showroom was: "I'd get an electric ne if I were you." That'll cut the complints.

On Webbley's green

and plasant turf Connoissers of doggerel would be foolish to hiss Over the Moon, a collection of "campionship football poems from Rayom House Children's Books to be published tomorrow. That's poems about elimpionship football, in case you're ondering, not championship poems you football. Here's a sample, to he silg to the tune of "Jerusalem" And for those feet, in flaming June, Wallout on Wembley's hallowed green?

DIARY

Britannia plays a welcoming tune To host encounters European. And did they qualify, the cream of Scotland, Spain and Germany?

Did Jackie Charlton's boys make the To meet England · Italy?

That was from the bardic pen of Jimmy Hill (right) and may help to explain why the Church of Scotland has decided that "Jerusalem" is unsuitable for its hymnals. Well, they say William

Blake couldn't score with an open goalmouth in front of him.

Like a bat out of hell, if that's OK with you

Like a Dat out of hell if that's UK with you Marvin Lee Aday, better known as Mear Loaf the fully shated, swenty larger than life soft ment supreme is not all the scenas in an interview with larger than life soft ment supreme is not all the scenas for an interview with New Musical Express the 15 wear old American inger reveals not only that he is unlikely to ann to drink in his old age. he is record—but be has he is unlikely to ann to drink in his old age. he is record—but be has been soft if think of myself is not become in the his serious soft of the standing exery might. Hey, it's only said, "I feel blessed and I thank the andience every might, Hey, it's only said, "I feel blessed and I thank the andience every might. Hey, it's only polite." He is also untilely to cratch GD. Too, the man affectionately known polite. "He is also untilely to cratch GD. Too, the man affectionately known as "Mear" by identify and faintly is a lend some some men According to as "Mear" by identify and faintly is a lend some over his healthin war. A bystander potentially succided ber to led a friend run over his healthin war. A bystander potentially succided ber to led a friend run over his healthin war. A bystander then sommented admittingly. "You must have pleasted between your ears"

Fancy a top-up? Soon it will even be legal

There's good news today, something to bring joy to all publicans and their clientele. For the Government, in its efforts to cut back on red tape, is repealing a law that no one knew existed in the first place. Section 165 of the Licensing Act 1964, better known as the "Long Pull" prohibition, is confidently expected to be repealed today in the Lords as part of

the Deregulation Bill. For those not familiar with the 1964 Act, there is a section that makes it an offence to sell or supply to a person a measure of intoxicating liquor that is more than the amount for which he asks. In other words, until today, it has been illegal for a publican to top up a pint.

on toting Most Lost only wants to be polite.

The honorary secretary of the Par-liamentary Beer Club, Robert Hum-phreys, was bemused. "The law was esumably passed to discourage publicans from attracting more business by giving extra. I've heard of people comag about a short measure, but to

be prosecuted for a long measure is A thoroughly positive piece of legisla-tion? "I'll drink to that," was his reply.

You're never old when

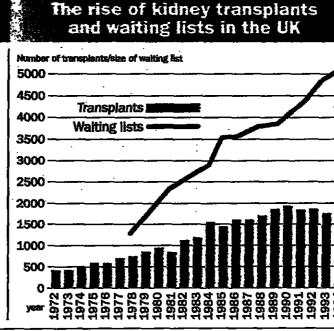
you're a New Avenger It's one of those far from absolutely fabulous moments in life when one's Eagle-eyes begin to wonder if it's time for spectacles, and one's feathers feel tattered. Was it really so long ago that we frittered away

our youth drooling over the "New Avengers"? Joanna Lumley is 50 today. Happy birthday, Purdey.

Scunthorpe censored

Residents of Humberside: one of your towns has been officially renamed. From now on, it's Sconthorpe. According to America Online, anyway. The world's largest Internet server has been having a little problem with its filth-detecting censorship software, with the result that anyone attempting to subscribe from an address in Sounthorpe has the modem slammed down on them in a fit of prudery when they get halfway through the town's name. Would-be customers have been told that subscriptions from Sconthorpe would present no problem. As Mary Whitehouse bashers have always pointed out, if you're looking hard enough for four-letter words, you'll find them everywhere.

Eagle Eye



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Giving peace one last chance

Peace in Northern Ireland seems to be slipping through our fingers. All-party peace talks are due to start on 10 June. Yet without Sinn Fein present they will take place beneath a very large question mark: what is the point? Even in Dublin, apparently the place where enthusiasm for the talks is greatest, the private word in the foreign ministry is that the talks are "not worth a penny candle". Peace will only last in Northern Ireland if it is legitimate and it can only be legitimate if the terrorists and their political sympathisers can be drawn into mainstream politics.

But the chances of Sinn Fein sitting at the negotiating table on 10 June look increasingly slim. The Irish Prime Minis-ter, John Bruton, cut a lonely figure this week with his expressions of "mild optimism" about a possible restoration of the IRA ceasefire before talks begin. Yet as long as the bombers keep bombing, their political counterparts must be excluded from talks.

That the peace process should be so completely scuppered seems outrageous. The population of Northern Ireland are enjoying their respite from violence, however temporary it might turn out to be. Most people want peace and know that the only way to achieve it is to get everyone round a table large enough to have every issue put upon it. So much progress seems to have been made over the past 18 months and surely there should be something more that someone could do to rescue the

process before it collapses altogether? The straightforward answer of course is that the IRA should abandon its violence again. Mr Bruton bases his optimism on "the logic of the situation," arguing that sooner or later the republican movement will realise what an unprecedented opportunity awaits them. If we are lucky, he will be proved right. Unfortunately it seems more likely that Sinn Fein and the IRA do not believe this is an opportunity worth taking. Could it be that with a little more reassurance that the talks are "for real", Sinn Fein might persuade the IRA it was worth reinstating the ceasefire?

This is clearly what the Irish government has been trying in the past few weeks. On Monday, the Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, proposed that the decommissioning of weapons should be discussed in parallel with other negotiations - to stop the entire process being derailed on the first day. Spring's sug-gestions are worth considering, and the Ulster Unionists – and many Tory MPs – were foolish and irresponsible to denounce them so completely yesterday. It is naive to think that paramilitaries will abandon their weapons before discussing the issues that provoked them to arms in the first place. To insist that agreement on arms is the precursor to further talks is to

paralyse the talks altogether. How should John Major respond to all this? So far. the British Prime Minister has played an admirable role in the peace process. However, while his personal commitment to the Northern Ireland peace process remains unquestioned, his government, his party, and his straitened political circumstances are letting him

The biggest problem for Mr Major now is that no matter how fair and balanced he tries to be, the nationalists will always believe he is in hock to the Unionists at Westminster to keep his government afloat. The revival of a peace process that has run so deeply into the sand requires energy, focus and authority; qualities that Mr Major's tired and distracted gov-

But holding out for the election of a Labour government or a revival in Mr Major's fortunes will be little consolation to the people of Northern Ireland. So in the meantime, the two governments, politicians and paramilitaries on all sides must not give up the pursuit of peace. The talks on 10 June may be slow going, incomplete and inconclusive - but at least they are talks. While there is still a chance, however slim, Major should attend them. If he decides not to it will surely sound the death-knell for this stage in the peace process.

Rhyme and reason

Quod spiro et placeo tuum est, said Horace – it is because of you I make poetry". For poets down the ages "you" more often than not was she: Catullus's Lesbia, Burns's bonnie Lesley, Goethe's Lottie, Betjeman's Joan Hunter Dunn. Traditionally, poets have sought inspiration outside themselves. They bend a figure mom nature, mom a brook, from a face. They hear a rhyme in a clock (Pope) or a step (Baudelaire).

According to Dr Felix Post, writing in the British Journal of Psychiatry, this is how poets work. They are, it appears, more sociable and less self-preoccupied than other artists. According to his (not entirely rigorous and scientific) study of poets' characters, they are much less "antisocial, histrionic and narcissistic" not just than writers of prose and plays but even than the population at large. So perhaps they do, like Donne contemplating heaven or his mistress s bum - get their inspiration from without.

Yet that is not the end of the story. Poets. Dr Post opines, exhibit much higher levels of severe manic depression than other kinds of writer. But they show lower levels of mild depression, alcoholism, sexual dysfunction and what the psychiatrists charmingly call personality deviations. Dr Post's consulting couch throws up the following explanation. Writers of novels or plays - Dr Post's selves, study, it should be said, is of the greats we do.

The reason why "Thought for the Day" on Radio 4's Today pro-

gramme is going through such tur-

moil is quite simple. Just before he

died, Dennis Potter signed up a deal with the BBC whereby they

would agreed to use his posthumous

scripts for "Thought for the Day". It

meant firing all the regulars and completely clearing the decks, but now everything is sorted out and

The first Dennis Potter "Thought

for the Day" went out this morning.
In case you missed it, here is the whole historic text.*

"Thought for the Day": part one of a new radio play by Dennis Potter. The scene is a radio studio. The Bishop

of Rutland is seated before a micro-

phone. He has a bottle of whisky in front of him. He sips from a glass. We hear Fred Astaire singing "Night and

Bishop: Mmm. Scotch. Nice. Warms

the cockles of your ... cockles of your thingy. Heart. Warms the cockles of

Bishop: Cockles. Funny word, cock-

les. Cockles and mussels. Strange place to find cockles, in your heart. Mussels of your heart. Strange ...

ready to roll.

Day". It fades away.

He takes another slurp.

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COU

rather than authors from the Jilly Cooper and Jeffrey Archer school - enter into the heads of their characters and this leads to greater "inner turmoil". Poets, by contrast, are connoisseurs of language rather than character. It seems the pursuit of a metaphor is less stressful than working out

But this is all counter-intuitive. Don't poets inhabit garrets along with the cast of Bohemian life, or live the romantic life à l'outrance with Cavafy or Rilke? The fact is generalisation across the writing disciplines is fraught with difficulty. As for Dr Post's suggestion that poets don't drink or screw around: didn't Dylan Thomas write that book aided and abetted by Dryden and Jonson? For every Sylvia Plath the world of verse can offer upstanding characters like Tennyson: for every drug-abusing Coleridge a clean-living fellow such as Walt Whitman; for every brash young Shelley a wise old

Dr Post speculates that creative work of the imagination is associated with "excessively" high activity in the neural networks but is not entirely sure which way the causation runs. That sounds suspiciously like a very old observation about artists of all kinds. They are all slightly unhinged, slightly manic. That is what makes them strive to see themselves, us and the world more clearly than

Voiceover: Going live in 20 seconds,

Bishop: What do you mean? I'm live

Presenter's voice: And now it's time for "Thought for the Day", which comes today from our Leicester stu-

dio, where the Bishop of Rutland is

Bishop: Thank you, James, and good morning everybody. Today I want to say something about hearing voices.

You know, we often talk about hear-

ing voices, but how often do we actu-ally hear voices out of the air? I mean

actually hear disembodied voices out

of thin air? Like St Joan of Arc did?

Well, in my case, quite often. For instance, I am sitting in a radio stu-

dio at this very moment and from time to time I hear Fred Astaire singing. Or voices saying, "Going on air in 10 minutes" or "Could you speak a lit-tle more clearly, Bishop, without the

waiting for us. Bishop?

Pottering about with 'Thought for the Day



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Save 'Jerusalem' from small-minded clerics

Sir: Drop "Jerusalem" from the Church of Scotland's hymn book, or how to make yourself look silly in one simple step. And all because ("Ancient hymns fails the modern test", 29 April) "no one knows what it means".

No one knows what a considerable proportion of Scotsmen are saying, with their weird dialects, but I'm not aware that the Government intends to send them all back to Scotland. And the Rev Charles Robertson wants to exclude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" because the word "gentlemen" breaches political correctness.

What then of the salutation "Ladies and gentlemen"? Would this clergyman have us say "Dearly beloved"? Surely the remedy is to have a section for "traditional melodies" in the Scottish hymnal? that is so offensive about the Rev Robertson's plans. It offends against something innate in me a sense of history perhaps. Per-haps it is a sense of tradition, of continuity. All I can say is that if he carries his plans through, he is likely to be neither dear nor beloved by many of his congregations and make himself look small-minded, not to say idiotic, into the bargain

Lord BROADBRIDGE House of Lords London SW1

Sir: So most people do not know what the words of the hymn "Jerusalem" mean. The tradition that the young Jesus Christ visited these islands with his uncle Joseph of Arimathaea, to which the fiymn refers, may or may not nelodies" in the Scottish hymnal? be true. Credence must be given
I do not quite know what it is it, however, in view of the fulfilled

promise to the patriarch Jacob that his descendants would become "a nation and a company of nations" (Genesis 35 x, xi), which promise was subsequently passed specifically to the descendants of his son Joseph.

The existence of the British Commonwealth, over which an ancient throne rules on which the monarchs are crowned on "the pillar stone of Jacob" or "Stone of Scone" - see Genesis 35 again - should make people think about this hymn and its meaning. MIS S PEARSON Beckenham, Kent

Sir. Perhaps political correctness and spoon-feeding haven't quite gone far enough. Surely "bymn", "hymnai", "hymnary" sound far too masculine to be retained? MICHAEL T HYDE

Caxton outlives

Sir: Not another obituary for the

book ("Have we reached the end

of the book?", 27 April). John

Walsh's article and Sven Birk-

erts's book The Gutenberg Eler-

consumed acres of paper and gal-

lons of ink. We have been here

before. The "paperless" office is

now groaning under a mountain

In the late 1980s I studied

computing. The disks were five

and a half inches in diameter, and

I used them to store my work.

Lately, I have returned to these

computer classes, and of course

technology has moved on, with

the now standard three-and-a-

half-inch disk. I have lost access

to my work in the larger format

of computer print-out.

knowledge.

the computer

Public support for Comic Relief

Sir: Peter Popham (29 April) claims that Comic Relief is inefficient - "Oxfam raises four times more per year than Comic Relief's £10m" - and that it "staggers on", raising less and less each year. The sum raised last year is achially £20.8m, not £10m, 1ms represents an increase in income of 20 per cent from the previous event and both Oxfam and Save the Children Fund have, over the years, been the principal beneficiaries of funds raised by Comic

Relief itself. Under the Popham treatise, British giving remains "a peculiarly compulsive activity", undertaken in a "completely disinterested way, to whatever at any particular moment wrings our heartstrings the hardest". Indeed, giving is "one of the last unconscious hangovers from the glori-

ous days of our empire". But latest figures detailing income to the top 500 charities reveal that 33 per cent of total income comes from that most

have no human source at all. I'll give

you another example. I was at a party

the other day ...
We move to a party scene. Lots of chat-

ter and tinkling and laughter.
Bishop: I was just standing by myself when from nowhere a voice spoke.

Voice: Hi, Bish! What's your poison? Bishop: How very true, I thought.

Drink IS our poison, isn't it? The

words "toxic" and "intoxicate" are so

very closely allied. And I looked

round to see who had said this, and

there was a man who introduced

Doctor: Hi, Bish. Have you noticed

that at every party you go to there's always one person who confesses to

being a doctor? And another 10 who

don't? Because if you admit at a party

that you're a doctor, then someone is bound to start presenting their symp-

toms to you. So we take it in turns.

And I'm the doctor on call at this

party.

Bishop: Funny you should say that.

I've been hearing voices recently. I

have also been slurring my speech a lot. And I've been knocking things

over. I wonder if there is any disease

which causes all those things, when you haven't been drinking at all.

Doctor: You haven't been drinking at

himself as a doctor.

compulsive, immediate and disinterested of sources - the charitable bequest or legacy.

Who, or what, were the great fundraisers of the British Empire? Not Oxfam, Save the Children, nor the vast majority of DUDIK TUNGTAKSING CHATTLES. AU OI which are a more modern phenomenon. It is the advent of modern

technology, and events like Comic Relief which harness that

technology to the fundraising process, that have allowed a broader public the opportunity to support the causes they wish to. STEPHEN LEE Director Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers London SW8

Sir: Scrooge didn't need Christmas but that didn't dampen the Cratchitts' spirits. Bah, humbug to Peter Popham!

Bishop: Oh, no, I've been drinking a lot. I just need a disease which pro-

duces the same symptoms, so I can

Doctor: Semile dementia would fit the

Bishop: Senile dementia! Excellent!

The scene changes to a rainy street. We

hear the Bishop accosting a pair of

young girls.
Bishop: Helio, girls. Like to hear my thought for the day?

First girl: You're pissed!
Second girl: You're disgusting!
Bishop: You may be right. But at least I hear voices, which is more than you

do. And I'm not pissed. I've got an illness called ... hold on, I've got it writ-

First girl: Oh my God, he's collapsed.

Second girl: It happened to my Uncle Jack just like that. One minute he was

shoplifting in Woolworth's - that was

his job - the next minute he was down

with a stroke. They found 40 packets

of jelly babies on him. The coroner

This extremely confusing episode is being repeated on commercial radio tomorrow. There will be another 149 episodes on

Radio 4, all more or less the same.

ten down somewhere.

said it was a miracle.

Sound of a fall.

use it as an alibi.

Thanks, doc!

TULIA LOCKWOOD London N22

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime teleph number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Militant feminists in the law

Sir: Eileen Pembridge's tirade against me ("My daft learned friend: shut up!", 22 April) represents a ludicrously inaccurate version of the speech I delivered at the Women Lawyers' Conference.

The central theme of the speech was that in recent years women have made very considerable progress in the profession and that it was strange that this progress received so little celebration from militant feminists of Mrs Pembridge's type. The mili-tants feed on grievances, not achievements.

I have never said that "sexual

harassment did not occur in the legal profession", merely that the issue was greatly exaggerated by the militants. Mrs Pembridge is well aware that the female head of personnel at the Law Society has stated, in writing, that she does not consider that sexual harassment is a problem at the Law Society. But that is one of those things which is simply not allowed to be said.

I have never said that "women should be at home tending their families, not 'elbowing their way to the top' ". I have said that some women willingly choose to give family priority over career and that this is a choice they are

not like women as pers and colleagues". This is ridialous. During the Law Society Cancil elections last year I vied for a woman for the offices Deputy Vice-President and rged my supporters to do te same Women are dispropoionately represented in my ownCouncil support group. I was anember of the committee that ecently (and unanimously) apposed the Law Society's first femalSecretary-General.

Mrs Pembridge ses that I "do

The statement that have described women as "the enemy," is equally prepostous, I was criticising the zeals, an entirely different thing.
Mrs Pembridge and I fight

an election campaign less th 12 months ago. We both addrsed meetings, published articleand manifestos. The professiomac every chance to make its wn assessment. In the event, Iras elected with Mrs Pembridge biling third. Throughout the carpaign she banged the femilist drum but made no more imprasion on womer solicitors than n

MARTIN MEAS Presidet The Law Societ

Lesson of yet another gun massacre

Sir: Will the latest gun atrocity, show they have a lackbone and in Tasmania, help to focus the

When the "gun amnesty" starts

disks. With formats continually changing we would need a science museum of computer antiques to preserve our called for, so when will this gov-A couple of years ago I visited ernment, nay, this Parliament the British Library and saw William Tyndale's Bible, which over Chechnya

changed the direction of Chris-tianity and the English language. As I peered into the glass case. I could read those beautiful words with little difficulty. There will be no end to technological change, but when our descendants are sal-vaging scrambled disks or whatever has replaced them, the works of Gutenberg, Caxton and Birkerts will still be available for

> PETER STOCKILL Middlesbrough

Ritual slaughter by Christians

instant consultation.

Sir: Muslims are not the only Europeans who slit the throats of lambs for religious festivals ("British sheep sent to horrific killing ground", 29 April). Many more are slaughtered this way for Greek Easter. Where are the horror stories then?

For an RSPCA inspector to say that "the lack of bleating is indicative of suffering" is ludi-crously anthropomorphic I have helped to kill neighbours' sheep in Greece. It is painless and humane. The animal does not struggle. It drifts off as if under an anaesthetic. The rest of the flock graze happily a few feet

This is not the point. What sends shivers down spines is the word Muslim. Your article was more about racism than animal

JOHN MOLE

introduce such measures. Outlaw handguns! FW SANDERS

Sir: Your report (29 April) on the

history of mass killingsincorrectly

Government's mind on its brave words and fine promises to the people of Dunblane?

in June, 12 weeks will have elapsed since that atrocity. Guns handed in under this amnesty are weapons held illegally, but both Hungerford and Dunblane were perpetrated by "licensed" killers, so that nothing will have removed the possibility of a third massacre. Draconian measures are

attributes the Tasmaian massacre to the world's nost lethal lone gunman. This menviable title is held by the Israeli-American doctor who machin-gunned down 64 Muslims during prayer

at a mosque in Jerusalen. ABDULRASHID Londo: SW18

Diplomatic silence | A corpse is not

Sir: In his moving plea ("Halt the fall into barbarity", 29 April) for the international community to take action to stem the slide into barbarism in Chechnya, Jean-Marc Bornet of the International Committee of the Red Cross asks whether the diplomatic silence would have been so deafening had this appalling war bro-ken out in the days of the Soviet Union.

The short answer, of course, is no. Western politicians would have shed crocodile tears at the spectacle of the plucky Chechens struggling to cast off the yoke of the "evil empire", while the CIA would have been equipping them with Stinger missiles.

But now that Russia has joined the "Free World", the US Secretary of Defense, William Perry, categorises Russian policy in Chechnya, which has resulted in the indiscriminate mass slaughter of civilians, as "entirely correct" At the recent G7 meeting in

Moscow, President Clinton, displaying as great an ignorance of his own history as that of Chech-nya, likened the conflict to the American Civil War. If the war in Chechnya resem-

bles anything in US history, it is the genocidal Indian wars of the 19th century.

Professor RICHARD CLOGG European Studies Centre St Antony's College

a person

Sir: Burying human remains in several places ("Priests pizzle over double burial", 26 Apri) is only a problem if a corps is regarded as a person. Afterdeath what remains has served its purpose, like mik teeth and har clip-pings. These will not be used for a future life but may be treasured mementos of the past.

If a mourrer finds it helpful to

have a portion of her loved one's remains nearby, that should be respected. People cone to terms with

death in different ways. For myself, the whereabouts of relatives' material emains is a matter of indifference. The person's future is with Gtd. Rev Canon John GOODCHILD

Liverpool

Every Tor? for himseli

Sir: Your report (29 pril) on the possibility of 100 Conservative MPs defying the leafership on Europe quotes DavicEvans MP as saying: "We're heding for a situation where it's evey man for humseli.' How apt. This is presely what

the Conservatives have spoused for the rest of us for th past 17 years.

The Rev STEPHE JONES Canforth.

sne said. When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro- have to amend legislation.

birth certificates and passports. missioning IRA weapons.

OSIET UHIORRA TO LIE LINE, said one ministerial source.



THE INDEED AND ADDRESS.

Essex many tand west pel-good distort to be

call

 $WrDSO_{\sigma^{+}OS}$

The age of innocence is dead, killed by suspicion

Child abuse fears are about to cost many needy children a holiday. Are we being over-cautious?

This story marks another nail in the coffin of the age of inno-cence – for nothing could be more innocent than the Children's Country Holiday Fund. Founded in 1884 by Canon Samuel Barnett and his wife Dame Henrietta, it has sent more than a million children from "the London slums" on country hol-

idays.
But this venerable charity (President, Princess Alexandra) is now in deep disarray, wracked by self-doubt and anxiety. Yesterday its director resigned and the trustees have closed down all the holidays for this year. The 3,000 poor children expecting to go will be sadly disappointed. The hundreds of volunteers who organise the holidays each year, mainly with country families, have wasted their time and work.

The charity has fallen victim to a panic about child abuse gripping many organisations. It is not, after all, a panic without substance. Following the horrible revelations reported extensively in this paper from Clwyd, and other dreadful cases in children's homes, the world has finally woken up to the deviousness of predatory paedophiles who infiltrate every place where children are to be found.

What has befallen the CCHF is a incident two years ago, a London sad warning of what may happen to a number of other excellent voluntary organisations. Those country families that out of generosity have taken in children from London for years may feel themselves suddenly subject to unjust suspicion. Decent, selfless people may become increas-ingly fearful of involving themselves with children at all.

The trouble started last summer in a CCHF camp (though most holidays are with host families in the country). An Islington child at a CCHF camp complained of what Islington describes as "inappropri-ate touching" by a camp organiser. Although the incident was relatively minor, it led to police investigation of the accused man. A teacher in residential schools, he is now in custody on charges relating to his teaching work. Unfortunately, he was one of the 15 trustees of the charity. Two other trustees have resigned in the past two years following convictions for child abuse, unconnected with CCHF children. One got three years' probation, the other spent

volunteer used the CCHF to befriend a vulnerable family, earning their trust, then offering to babysit and take the children swimming. He served a three month sentence for molesting one of them.

Put together in this way, that sounds like quite a long litary of dis-aster for the CCHF. Three trustees and one volunteer turn out to have been accused of paedophilia. On the other hand, Bob McKeown, the director, says that in all these years there have only ever been these two relatively minor incidents with CCHF children. Many of the volun-teers accuse him of panicking unduly, sacrificing children's holidays needlessly. This tension has partly led to his resignation. He is an ex-army man and he thinks the job should go to a child-care professional.

Islington Council, hyper-sensitive to child abuse after serious cases in their own children's homes, told the CCHF that because these two incidents both happened to their children, they would no longer send any others. They said they would write four months in prison. In another to every other London borough



Decent people may become too fearful of working with children

telling them of their concern, as social services always share any cause for alarm. The letters went out yesterday. The CCHF replied that to avoid scandal they would close down all their holidays this year and review their methods.

Many of the volunteers within CCHF are distraught at the loss of all this year's holidays. They feel their procedures are as water-tight as possible. Host families are vetted

by local volunteers. If they are deemed suitable, they then have to provide legal proof of identity. (Paedophiles frequently change name and address to avoid detection). They need two references, one from their GP and one from another professional person. Then they need to be cleared with the local social services department, and after that they are cleared with police records through a special department of the Home Office. This is a pretty rigorous system. What more can the CCHF be expected to do? The Scout Association, for instance, has no access to police records but relies on its own cuttings and records of anyone ever reported to them or the press on child abuse charges. How-ever, they say they only get some 10 complaints of any sort each year

against their 110,000 leaders. Following the Clywd revelations the Government is considering a national register of convicted paedophiles. But, many of the professionals say, it would be important to include allegations (whether substantiated or not) as well as convictions, to detect recurrent patterns.

The CCHF will now bring in more thorough interviewing, though most people agree that the chances of detecting a paedophile on interview are virtually nil. Islington's deputy head of social services, Paul Pallon, says they have been looking or our action and they damn you if you don't. The CCHF are right to into character tests (so-called "personality inventories") although they

paedophiles from applying, and they will move off to a softer target. The National Children's Bureau is helping CCHF to improve its methods. One suggestion is that children and families should be told clearly how to make complaints, and blow the whistle on anything suspicious.

are not convinced that these have

been proved to work. But he does

think vigorous screening may deter

John Rea Price, a former Social Services director and now head of the National Children's Bureau, has had a life-time's experience of all this. He used to be sceptical of rumours of paedophile rings, but has learned of their sophistication through bitter experience. He cites the recent case of a one-time employee of the Chil-dren's Bureau who later became a leading child abuse consultant, Open le goodness and kindness.

University lecturer and author of key texts on residential care. A lifetime of paedophilia was uncovered only by a chance customs discovery of child

"There is no justice in these cases," Mr Rea Price says, "The media dama you if you do take rigclose down for a time, because it's Sod's law something will happen if they don't. But it will be an absolute tragedy if that spirit of volunteering, generosity and hospitality is lost, that spontaneous human kindness to children. After all, volunteers usually have a better record of safety

with children than professionals." Many of the volunteers think the CCHF has over-reacted. Temporary closure is a gesture with little real substance. Rigorous new checks may yield no better results, while making it virtually impossible for the country volunteers to operate. So the charity may collapse because nothing they can do will ever be 100 per cent risk free. But it would be a bitter loss to children who need a holiday from families that have neglected or abused them - and a sad loss of the volunteering spirit, of sim-

Control rough

Blair's voters in Versace

Essex man and woman are in the money, yet the feel-good factor is leading them to choose Labour

Via, no kidding, a satellite link from Basildon, Tony Blair delivered a blatant lie to a Westminster press conference. "Basildon," he said, "is an interesting place." Admittedly he then went on to say, "in which to hold a local election campaign". But the damage was done. Basildon of itself is not an interesting place and has only taken on the ephemeral raiments of fascination by being county which is the home of

Essex Man. And here was Blair's point. Essex man and Essex woman," he insisted, "are coming over to today's Labour Party." The electoral resonance of this arises from the fact that it was the result at Basildon - a 1,480 majority for Tory David Amess that signalled the defeat of Labour last time round. Apparently Essex Man, whatever his working-class roots, had seen the free market, Euro-sceptic light.

The point was that this man was not a natural Tory, he was not from old, rural Essex, but from new, suburban Essex. He sprang from working-class Labour roots. So the deeper significance claimed for that victory was that an irreversible cultural and demographic change had taken place. Former Labour supporters had been, if not quite gentrified, then at least drawn into the enterprise culture. They took the threat of high taxes personally and they regarded Labour's manifesto as an invitation back to the bad old days of unions and a fixed, underdog place in the world.



BRYAN APPLEYARD

Such a convert became Essex Man but Earning Man. He would answer the door dressed in jeans and designer T-shirt, with severely cropped hair and a ring in one ear. This ring came to inspire neither fear nor an inward grown in the canvassers, but rather a sigh of relief. For they knew that it signified a selfmade man, perhaps with a small business, who had done well under Maggie and expected to continue to do well under Major. He was the new True Blue, not the old Skinhead Red.

"There was usually a Rottweiler in the background," one canvasser told me, "and its owner often had a domineering mother, so he went for

If Blair is right and Earring Man is about to vote Labour, then it will indeed be a personal triumph for him and for his new, non-socialist, enterprise-friendly party. In fact, it will turn out to be an even bigger triumph than he realises. For Blair will have overturned not just the psephology of Essex but also the old, apparently iron-clad law of British politics that rich people vote Tory and poor people vote

Labour. This is because the current truth about Earring Men, at least those who live in Essex. is that they are, possibly unknown to the Treasury, stink-

The exact extent of this wealth will not emerge in official figures for some time. Perhaps it will never emerge. This is, I suspect, because the casual, or black, economy in this counknown to Tory canvassers dur- try has boomed. One indicator lower than they should be. But the dead giveaway is that the official figures show only modest growth and still cautious consumers. The reality on the ground is that a boom is in

My primary evidence comes from the vast Lakeside Shopping Centre in Thurrock in, naturally, Essex. This is, for the moment a sociologist's paradise. The liq-uid wealth on display is extraordinary. Versace jeans are the key. These cost around £120 and are either being worn by or sold to Lakeside customers in bewildering numbers. They are de rigeur for Earring Man and his mate. And then there are sunses. One shop's range starts with Ray-Bans at £80 plus and rises to Jean-Paul Gaultier's at £250 plus. None of these things esented as a hixiny item, rather they are the only items in certain shops. If the middle classes are still too insecure to move house, then the lower middle classes are secure enough to become label victims.

And perhaps that is the point. Previous booms have been defined primarily as middle-



whelmingly on house prices. When the middle class feels rich it invests in property and then feels even richer as house prices rise to silly levels. But this is a liquid boom fuelled by a consumption rather than investment culture and, I would guess, by previous experience of insecurity. The working and lower middle classes have pulled out of the property dream. The house price crash detonated that myth and undermined the glamour of the council house sales programme of the Eighties. Now when Earring Man feels rich he goes for the Gaultier and Versace - conveniently or, perhaps, deliberately these are both designers whose products - spattered with gilt -

go perfectly with the metallic

macho of the earning. This is not the sort of wealth the Tories find easy to deal with.

Thatcher's property owning democracy was all about stabilising people in their homes, making them thrifty and solid in fact, lots of little Grantham housewives and their husbands. But the new Earring wealth has mobile, globalised tastes and more insubstantial goals. Earring Man likes money, certainly, but not as much as he likes to spend it. Tory thrift has gone wrong for the property-obsessed middle class; they have discovered insecurity. But the lower classes have always known insecurity and they discovered it anew after the council house buying aberration of the Eighties. Now they've got it again,

So the question raised by Blair's remarks is: can Earring Man possibly vote Labour? To veterans of the 1987 election in particular it may seem incon-

they're spending it.

it became clear that voting Tory was a fundamental act of Earring self-identification, an assertion of aspiration, of material ambition. On the other hand Earring Man is hard, he does not like weakness and Major is definitely weak. Blair may not obviously be strong but, as one Tory put it, he "comes across as a gent" so he may still satisfy the

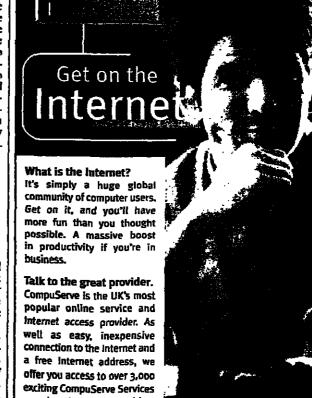
aspirational Earring.

If he does, then the stakes are high. Essex is solidly Tory with the exception of, conveniently enough, Thurrock, home of the Lakeside mall. Converts here would be true converts, people who had made an imaginative leap from one identity to another. Blair would have convinced them that Labour no longer stank of pig-headed unions and dismal comprehensives, but rather gave off the fragrance of modernity, of Parfum Versace. Basildon will certainly

go Labour, but then there might also be Harlow or, almost

unthinkably, Braintree. But Essex as a whole isn't really the point, the Lakeside mall is. That is the home of the high-spending belongers, those most integrated into the manners and aspirations of the modern world. They now look richer and more confident than ever

before. They feel good. Yet, as we know, there is no feel-good factor for the Tories. The connection between wealth and political complacency has been severed. Earning Man is at a crossroads, wondering what Blair would look like in a nice pair of Versaces with perhaps a studded belt and some Gaultier



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Trapped in a man's body with a woman's mind

The transsexual who has just won a test-case in Brussels says all of us have at stake in her victory

belong to a small community of I people all born with the same unusual syndrome. It has the unfortunate name of transsexualism and is one of those rare conditions - like hermaphroditism - where the individual is born as a mixture of the sexes. There are thousands of us in the UK, and as soon as our condition is confirmed, we lose many of our civil liberties. We have no substantive employment rights, it is illegal for us to marry and we are not allowed to adopt children. But of course we are people -

lawyers, doctors, academics, nurses, business people, rich and poor, from shop assistants to peers of the realm. whose life-experience, curious to others, is normal to us. We do not believe that we are less worthy of human rights than anyone else: only less powerful.
It is almost impossible to commu-

nicate how it feels to be born and to grow up in this way. Knowing nothing else, it is normal for us to find nature and nurture at odds, to know ourselves one thing while being brought up as another. Typically, then, from the age of four or five, the child knows that there is something wrong and, typi-cally, they believe it will change naturally. Of course, it doesn't and by the age of eight or nine their distress is so great that they may simply hope to die.

Even if parents, doctor or child did want to speak about it, it is only recently that they would have had language to do that in: the syndrome wasn't introduced to the general medical world until 1954, and its diagnostic criteria wasn't agreed until 1980. There were whole generations who had no voice, no language and thus no way of articulating their profound sense of disability.

Indeed, it wasn't until an article in Science magazine last year that the physiological basis of transsexualism was finally demonstrated. Put most essibly, the medical explanation is

We have no substantive employment rights; it is illegal for us to marry

that when the child is in the womb, it receives two shots of hormones, one to form the body and one to form the deep structures of the brain. In most cases, this formation is congruent; in a tiny minority of cases it isn't and the child is born the body of one sex and the brain of another.

Treatment, by hormone replacement therapy and reconstructive surgery, over a period of three to five years, has a 97 per cent success rate. As individuals go on to live otherwise unremarkable lives, the social penalties for being born with transsernalism seem inexplicable. I do not just lose my marriage, adoption and

employment rights. Although my external anatomy is the same as that of all other women, it is not illegal to rape me and if I were remanded in custody it would be in a men's prison. Before 1970, I could not be legally

raped, and if I went to prison for not paying my parking fees I would have been placed in Holloway. But after 1970, I could be raped and have no recourse to law. If sentenced to a prison term, I would serve it in a jail

In 1970, the son and heir of Lord Rowallen gained an annulment of his marriage on the grounds that his wife, the model April Ashley, had been treated for transsexualism and was therefore legally male. To confirm this view, the judge set up a "sex-test" using criteria that have since been formally rejected by the world medical community but which still operate in the UK for legal purposes. The judge's comments were astonishingly brutal. April was not a woman but a "pastiche

A life-giving way of understanding our personal circumstances, is to see them as symbolic of the need of the individual to define themselves, to live autonomously to explore the nature of their being. Alternatively, we may be seen as a symbol of communality, through our lived experience that men and women are not different in potential in achievement, or in need. Or again, like the myth of Tiresias, the

seer who was changed from man to woman and back again, as a symbol of new life, new vision, new ideas, a third point on which to stand to re-examine and call into question otherwise unquestionable social norms. Or perhaps we are a symbol of the requirement for compassion, a reminder that the degree of civilisation in a society can be judged by the way in which it treats those who are most vulnerable. We are both vulnerable and pow-

April Ashley was judged not a woman but a 'pastiche of femininity'

erless. But Vaciav Havel, the Czech

philosopher cum politician in his essay The Power of the Powerless, spoke of the way that the crust of a dishonest social fabric can be broken when a single person breaks the rule of the game, thus exposing it as a game the whole crust seems then to be made of tissue on the point of tear-

ing and disintegrating uncontrollably".

My cases against the British Government were brought to open up just such a debate, the debate that Havel calls "the wellspring of truth". One debate leads to another; from those issues have sprung other issues of human rights, questions about the legality of dismissing homosexuals and lesbians from the armed forces, about the equal treatment of people under the immigration laws, a new defence of the individual and a renewed debate about the real aims of life. All that is required is for government to accept a return to the pre-

1970 status quo, a move that is supported by medicine, a large section of legal opinion and many parliamen-tarians. There is no need for new legislation or new administrative systems; the Birth Certificate still contains a column where errors at registration can be corrected as they were before 1970. Time has shown that there were no practical complications with those corrections, and thus there is no realistic argument for not reinstating the practice. Indeed, there is every reason for regarding it as an urgent necessity.

For in the end, the rights under question are not just mine but yours. Laws that do not protect me. do not protect you, your child, your friend, your family. The unequal, inhumane treatment of us is a microcosm of the inhumanity, the injustice, with which you might be treated. The purposelessness of these laws, their brutality, the general ignorance about this state affairs is, as Simone Weil puts it, obedience to the force of gravity. The greatest sin". To change them is, for myself, and my colleagues, not just a matter of personal freedom but a question of freedom for all of us.

Stirling Silliphant

The screenwriter Stirling Silliphant was a master of "the Oscar scene". Hollywood parlance for a scene that allows a star to pour out his heart and show his or her full range - and which inevitably features heavily in campaigns to get nominated for an award.

This applied not just to lead players, like Rod Steiger's racist Southern policeman in In the Heat of the Night (1967) or Clift Robertson's retard-turnedgenius in Charly (1968), both of whom won Oscars in Silliphantscripted roles; it is impossible to think of The Poseidon Adventure (1972) without Shelley Winters's "I can hold my breath, Manny: it's the one thing I can do" monologue and death

scene springing to mind.
Fond of quoting Raymond
Chandler's dictum. "A good writer is one who can take a cliché and write it as though it has never been used before", Silliphant wrote unashamed movie-star parts for unashamed movie stars. Unfortunately, such scripts depended on genuine stars for their success. Silliphant's dialogue for The Towering Inferno (1974) or The Enforcer (1976) is no better than that in his less successful films. but it was tailored for real stars like Steve McQueen and Clint Eastwood; many other "stars" lacked the screen presence to deliver his dialogue as if they helieved it.

Never was this more apparent than in The Silent Flute! Circle of Iron (1978), a pet project Silliphant developed with Bruce Lee and James Coburn. While someone with Lee's personal magnetism and strong belief in the project could have pulled it off, David Carradine simply looked like an uncomfortable straight man in a Monty Python sketch.

Yet Silliphant was far from a hack. Generally regarded as a "hired gun", he continually failed in his efforts to interest studios in his own more spiritual, personal projects, such as his long-held ambition to film Carlos Castaneda's The Teachings of Don Juan ("Not being able to make that film has got to be the great disappointment of my life," he once said). None the less, at his best Silliphant produced high-quality work

work, containing ideas that could have seemed outrageous to a mass audience at the time - a black policeman more civilised and intelligent than a white one, for example, A committed liberal, he took great trouble with his research, and often the vagaries of his dia-logue had much to do with the rewrite McQueen's part in The Towering Inferno to give him as many lines as his co-star Paul

Born in Detroit in 1918, Sil-

liphant wrote his first story at the age of five, and worked as a sports writer before becoming a publicity director for 20th Century-Fox between 1946 and 1953. He became an independent producer on The Joe Louis Story (1953), alternating between low-budget films such as Phil Karlson's Five Against the House (1955) and Don Siegel's The Lineup (1958, an expanded version of a television series) and writing for television shows such as Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Route 66 and The Naked City. It was not until MGM hired

Silliphant to write an adaptation of John Wyndham's The Mid-wich Cuckoos for Ronald Colman in 1958 that Silliphant really hit his stride as a screenwriter. Colman's death the same year and worries over the film's potential offensiveness to the powerful Catholic League of Decency kept it off the screen until 1960, when it was filmed as Village of the Damned. The infuriated Silliphant broke his contract with MGM and went back to television for several years before returning to films in 1965 to script Sidney Pollack's directo-rial début, The Slender Thread.

In the Sixties Silliphant was an early student of Bruce Lee, recommending his teacher to many of his Hollywood contacts and even writing a scene-stealing cameo for him in Marlowe (1969), an enjoyable update of Raymond Chandler's The Little Sister, as well as a role in the television series Longstreet, although attempts to build a series around him were constantly thwarted by the studio executives' reluctance to gamble on an Asian actor.

Silliphant proved more successful with black actors, thanks



Sidney Poitier, left, and Rod Steiger in In the Hest of the Night, 1967. Silliphant's screenplay won him an Oscar

to the growing media attention on the civil rights movement, which found an eloquent screen spokesman in Sidney Poitier's detective Virgil Tibbs, one of the first black screen heroes in a position of authority, in In the Heat of the Night. Described by the writer as "The Defiant Ones with cops instead of cons", it slickly combined a message movie with an above-average thriller plot to great critical and commercial success and earned Silliphant an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. (The following year he won a Golden Globe Award for his screenplay for Charly).

Just as successful, and certainly more influential, was the

Shaft series. With its hip theme music, gritty location work and a very contemporary hero in Richard Roundtree's black private eye, Silliphant produced the 1971 original, served as executive producer on Shaft's Big Score (1972) and as writer on Shaft in Africa (1973) before the hero spun off into his own short-lived television series. Although often dismissed as clichéd and patronising, the films were unique in being the first from a major studio to show black characters as being as selfreliant as white action heroes. Explaining their success in an interview with Tony Crowley in

1978, Silliphant noted, "It is in

the mistakes that a film can re-

ally work. The first Shaft was raw, had mistakes, heaps of them-you could almost see the shadow of the camera boom. But it had an angry kind of vigour to it. And that, I think, goes with what people want: honesty, challenge, excitement, involvement, unpredictability and energy. Although certainly no worse

than Paul Gallico's novel, The Poseidon Adventure was one of prise box-office success kickstarted the Seventies obsession with disaster movies that would dominate the decade and much of the remainder of Silliphant's career. He was to work with the Poseidon producer Irwin Allen

three more times, most successfully adapting two novels brought by rival studios into one picture and coming up with one of the biggest hits of the decade, The Towering Inferno. Silliphant went to great lengths researching the picture in an effort to turn it into more than merely a Grand Hotel catches fire" star vehicle, adding an attack on poor safety standards after discovering from firemen that their biggest enemy wasn't so

much fire as corrupt builders. These disaster films were nunctuated by efforts for major talents that failed to quite come off. The Killer Elite (1975), a confused spy thriller not helped by its director, Sam Peckinpah's

this scale. With crass dialogue to spare ("General, can we trust a scientist who prays?" "Son, I wouldn't trust any other kind"), it became a favourite of Clive James, but despite inexplicable optimism from Warner Bros, who lavished their biggest-ever budget and largestever release on the picture. The Swam proved to be not just the flop of the year but of the decade. Almost overnight Silliphant's reputation turned from Oscar-winning scribe to unwitting purveyor of high camp. A further screenplay for Allen, When Time Ran Out (1980, about a volcanic eruption), proved, if anything, even more inane, despite the pres-ence of High Noon's Carl Foreman as co-writer. Of Silliphant's subsequent

notably Murphy's War (1971), which left a trail of debts in its

wake - but never anything on

projects, only an above-average adaptation of Stephen King's Salem's Lot (1979) was of any note, which he executiveproduced for television from a script by Paul Monash after failing to get his own script of it made as a theatrical feature. Like many Hollywood pro-fessionals of his day, Silliphant

found it hard to adapt to the late Seventies and early Eighties as what was once unconventional became the convention a new generation of writers was reacting against. His style found itself overtaken by films that were either more subtly written or more explicitly realistic: the bizarre Sylvester Stallonc arm-wrestling/child-custody vchicle Over the Top, his last produced film screenplay, might just have worked in the Thirties with Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper, but in 1987 seemed more the stuff of daytime television than big-budget

Yet, if the later projects were ill-conceived, Silliphant was well paid - enough to retire to Thailand in 1988 with his wife Tiana Alexandra Du Long, who directed the 1994 documentary From Hollywood to Hanoi.

Trever Willsmer

Stirling Silliphant, screenwriter. born Detroit 16 January 1918; married 1974 Tiana Alexandra Du Long (four children); died Bangkok 26 April 1996.

Béla de Csillery

As a Hungarian conductor linist from an early age, de with a formidable European Csillery initially studied law training. Béla de Csillery was one of the most important music teachers to emerge from Britain during the post-war years. As Kent County Music Adviser from 1962 to 1981 hundreds of musicians and unusual ways to solve adminismade the Kent Youth Orchestra one of the most impressive

ensembles of its kind. he died, when he gently reminded me I had promised to secure him an engagement with one of the orchestras I had conducted recently in Eastern Europe. Such persistence from this sprightly 80-year-old reminded me of the uncompromising determination and energy which characterised

most of his extraordinary career. I first met him when I was 13 years old, singing one of the solos in Britten's Ceremony of Carols in Rochester Cathedral. He was accompanied by the beautiful solo violinist Gillian Samson, whom he had just married. My first impressions were of a kind, multilingual, worldly-wise and cultured musician from a strange, foreign land who had decided to make his home in rural Kent. He was extremely attractive and obviously considerably experienced in the art of being romantic. I still remember the sexual charge between him and Gillian on that cold December evening. Although a prodigious vio-

CORRECTION: In earlier editions yesterday the obituary of Joan Sterndale Bennett was erroneously illustrated by a photograph of the late Joan Bennett, the American actress (obituary by David Shipman, 10 December 1990).

instead of music and was awarded a doctorate at Budapest University. His law training came in useful in later years. He was always a tough negotiator and very much a political he moulded the careers of animal with a talent for finding trative and financial problems. Determined to make a career in music, he continued to study I never managed to return his at the Liszt Ferenc Music Acadlast phone call, the day before emy in Budapest, the Berlin Hochschule für Musik and the Academia Santa Cecilia in Rome. His teachers included Zoltan Kodály, Paul Hindemith, Ernest Ensermet De Csillery: uncompromising and the renowned conductor Bernardino Molinari. Before the Second World War he enjoyed a successful career as an orchestral violinist and soloist giving concerts throughout

> played included the legendary Willem Mengelberg and the great Felix Weingartner, a protege of Franz Liszt. His early love for an outdoor life and climbing developed during these years. Later, in the 1950s, he climbed many of the peaks in the Valais region of the Alps including the Matterhorn, an unusual and impressive achievement for that time. At the age of 30 he became Music Director of one of Hungary's main orchestras, the Budapest Municipal Orchestra, where he stayed for four years. When Ernest Ensermet first saw him conduct he immediately engaged him with the famous Suisse Romande Orchestra. De Csillery's conducting career flourished, and he was offered engagements

with the Philharmonic Orches-

tras of Baden-Baden, Dresden,

Munich and Barcelona, and

the Symphony Orchestras of

sonal Care Division, Philips Elec-

Europe and Scandinavia. The

many conductors for whom he



Madrid, Innsbruck and Radio

Turin.

On Ensermet's recommendation he came to Britain in 1953, and was appointed Head of Music at Trinity College, Glenalmond whilst working as a conductor with the Scottish National Orchestra. He always insisted he had chosen to become a British citizen but sadly, the Soviet annexation of

Hungary in 1956 prevented him from returning to his homeland. In 1962 de Csillery came to Kent to take up the post of Music Adviser to Kent County Council, an inspired appointment by the then Director of Education, John Haynes. De Csillery was encouraged to create the Kent County Youth Orchestra in 1963, the year he made his début with the London Symphony Orchestra. He married Gillian Sansom in 1965 and, with their two sons, they made their home

In a few years the Kent Youth Orchestra was able to impress by performing Mahler's Fifth Symphony, a work which, at that time, few professional orchestras would dare tackle. As a 14-

year-old, I played the seventh horn part in those perforances. I remember de Csillery's frustration at not being able to extract enough passion from the string section in this emotionally demanding work. As a last resort he turned up one morning with a red heart sewn to the transformed the local societies | choice at Aberdeen. Appointsleeve of his shirt, protesting musically and economically, "Now do you understand what giving regular concerts to I mean?" It produced the packed houses. He formed the desired result.

was one of the first to record for with a stunning interpretation of Rossini's Italian Girl in Algiers and the brilliant young Andrew Haigh playing one of Mozart's piano concertos. The session was later issued on BBC Records. Other recordings included an impressive and valuable account of Dohnányi's rarely performed Second

In the late Sixties the orchestra made their first highly acclaimed European tour of Switzerland followed by extensive tours throughout Germany and Belgium. The orchestra was then chosen to represent Britain in Herbert von Karajan's first youth orchestra festival in Berlin when some players were fortunate to perform for the then still youthful Karajan in Brahms's Second Symphony.

Some of Béla de Csillery's teaching techniques were based use idea of wasted opportunity and his greatest pleasure was to revel in the success of his students. don music colleges - and the Summer Music Schools at Benenden, de Csillery insisted on everyone singing in his choir, even if they believed they had no talent as singers. The results were stupendous. To hear a 200strong group of instrumentalists with no apparent vocal ability

singing Sir Michael Tippett's formidably difficult Plebs Angelica at the Benenden Summer School was simply staggering. De Csillery's commitment

to amateur music-making was also considerable. In Perth, Dundee and Maidstone he semi-professional Kent Sinfo-The Kent Youth Orchestra nia, taking music to the more inaccessible corners of the county. BBC Radio 3 during the 1960s He was a regular guest conductor with the BBC Training Orchestra in Bristol. His schools concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra were a revelation, introducing thousands of children, with his unique wit and depth of knowledge, to the world of classical music. When I finally became a professional horn player it was almost entirely due to the valuable experience of those years.

His work ethic, regarding a relentless and determined dedication to music, was uncompromising (he was an exceptional and, at times, tyrannically demanding teacher). When I gave up being a professional musician to work for the BBC as a producer, he told me sharply that I was wasting my life. I think, in a way, he felt betrayed. He demanded total loyalty from those he took under his wing. He hated

Béla de Csillery, conductor and music administrator: born Budapest 26 October 1915; married 1944 Johanna Murtzy (marriage dissolved 1959), 1965 Gillian Sansom (died 1993; two sons); died Maidstone, Kent 17 April 1996.

Sir Stephen Miller

contempt for the material and

on-set introduction to cocaine, The Enforcer (1976), a tired third outing for Clint East-

wood's Dirty Harry, and Telefon (1977), an efficient but outdat-

ed Cold War thriller started by

director Peter Hyams (who co-

wrote) but finished by Don

immediate follow-up to Possi-

don, and somewhat bizarrely re-

working the plot structure of In the Heat of the Night as a killer bee movie, the failure of The Swarm (1978) had a cata-strophic effect on the reputa-

tions of both Irwin Allen and

Silliphant. Silliphant had been involved in flops before - most

Originally intended as an

Stephen Miller was amongst the last of the general ophthalmologists and one of the first of the specialists - his area of

expertise being glaucoma.

He entered ophthalmology almost by accident, after failing ment. Miller set up the first unit to get the house job of his to conduct the technique at ed a house surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Hull, in 1937, he was introduced to ophthalmology, and served in the RNVR during the Second World War as an ophthalmic specialist.

After the war he was encouraged by his fellow Scotsman Sir Stewart Duke Elder, the country's foremost ophthalmologist, to come south. Within a few years of training at Moorfields Eye Hospital he was on the consultant staff of three major hospitals - St George's Hospital, the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and Moorfields itself.

Miller always advised his trainees to "cone down" on a subject, i.e. to focus on a single problem, and he chose to do so himself in his lifelong quest to understand and treat glaucoma and in neuro-ophthalmology. In the 1960s he was one of the first ophthalmologists in the country to see the potential of fluorescein angiography, a method



Engineering", 5_30pm.

of studying the retinal circula-tion by the injection of fluo-rescein dye. This innovation, pioneered in the United States, had previously been ignored by the ophthalmology establishthe National Hospital Queen Square, This single act launched the career of some of the most

distinguished ophthalmologists in the United Kingdom and led to the formation of a specialist department which has remained pre-eminent. Another important factor in the development of fluorescein angiography was the use of private donations - in particuar, his friend and patient Tommy Frost gave money. The Frost Foundation contin-

search and training grants for ophthalmology trainees. In the last few years, Miller's enthusiasm, vision and integrity enabled him to persuade Guide Dogs for the Blind to become a benefactor for ophthalmic research programmes, and his personal friendship with King Hussein of Jordan led to the establishment of a Fellowship at St John Ophthalmic

Hospital in Jerusalem. St John's occupied much of Miller's time, especially in his so-called retirement. He tirelessly raised money for this in-stitution (some £7m in total), which he saw as providing a greatly needed service for the patients and a unique opportunity for trainees from all parts of the world.

Miller had a special gift for writing. His personal letters were masterpieces of clarity, wit and kindness, and he put this talent to use in the many scientific publications he wrote for and in books such as Modern Trends in Ophthalmology (1973) and Parsons' Diseases of the

Eye (16th edition, 1978, to 18th edition, 1990). He became Editor of the British Journal of Ophthalmology in 1973. He derived much pleasure

from being Master of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress in 1969-70 and gave a supero lecture on glaucoma for which he was awarded the Doyne Medal of the Congress

In addition he was Surgeon-Oculist to the Queen from 1974 to 1980, and was created KCVO

For him to participate in so many activities Miller relied on a secure and happy home life. His wife supported him in his busy career and nursed him in his final illness, which he endured with great dignity and not ues to be a major source of re- a little rage. This difficult time was relieved by seeing one of his sons appointed to Moorfields Eye Hospital, continuing his interest in glaucoma, while another son was installed as a QC.

Miller remained attached to his native Scotland and he was an enthusiastic golfer and fisherman; he was also an excellent pianist and an exceptional bridge player. Although he did not paint himself, he had a beautiful collection of watercolours by Scottish artists.

Patrick J. Holmes Sellors Stephen James Hamilton Miller. ophthalmologist: born Arbroath 19 July 1915; Surgeon, Moorfields Eye Hospital 1954-80; Ophthalmic Surgeon, St George's Hospital 1951-80, National Hos-pital 1955-78, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers 1965-80; Surgeon-Oculist to HM House-hold 1965-74, to the Queen 1974-80; KCVO 1979; Hospitaller, St John Ophthalmic Hos-pital, Jerusalem 1980-90; married 1949 Heather Motion (three sons); died Woking, Surrey 12 April 1996.

Birthdays

Mr Naim Attalah, publisher, 65; Mr Richard Brooke, chartered accoun-36; Mr Ian Curteis, playwright, 61; Lord Dahrendorf, Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 67; Sir Henry de Waal QC, 65; Mr Glenn Ford. actor, 80; Dr Michael Gold-stein, Vice-Chancellor, Coventry University, 57; Sir Irvine Goulding. former High Court judge, 86; Mr Gordon Greenidee, former West Indies cricketer, 45; Mr Joseph Heller, novelist, 73; Sir Robert Hill, reliability consultant and former president, Institute of Marine Engineers, 59; Mr W. Leonard Hyde, former president, Leeds Permanent Building Society, 82; Mr Kevin Kennedy, chairman and chief execution. Description of the control utive, Domestic Appliances and Per-

tronics, 59; Professor Philip King, sculptor, 62; Miss Joanna Lumley, actress, 50: Sir Bruce McPhail, m tress, 30; sin Bruce Mcrian, man-aging director, P & O. 57; Mr Julian Mitchell, writer and playwright, 61; Mr Bo Nilsson, composer, 59; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Peake, first director, WRAF, 83; Mr Sonny Ramadhin, former West Indies crick-eter, 67; Sir Bob Reid, chairman, London Electricity, 62; Sir Lindsay Ring, former Lord Mayor of London, Ring former Lord Mayor of Lordon, 82; Colonel Sir Greville Spratt, for-mer Lord Mayor of London, 69; Miss Una Stubbs, actress, 59; Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice of Engiand, 66; Miss Wendy Toye, the-atrical producer, 79; Mr Mike Wat-son MP, 47; Professor Richard Welbourn, Emeritus Professor of Surgical Endocrinology, Royal Post-graduate Medical School, London University, 77; Sir John Wheeler MP.

56; Admiral Sir John Woodward, former Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, 64.

Anniversaries

Births: Joseph Addison, diarist and essayist, 1672; Charles Macklin (McLaughlin), actor, 1690; Arthur Wellesley (Wesley), first Duke of Wellington, field marshal and politician, 1769; George Inness, painter, 1825; Jules-Adolphe Aimé-Louis Breton, painter, 1827; Hilaire, Comte de Chardonnet, inventor of rayon, 1839; Edith Somerville (Anna Oenone), author, 1858; Sir Philio 1839; Edith Somerville (Anna Oenone), author, 1858; Sir Philip Armand Hamilton Gibbs, author, 1877. Deaths: Dermot MacMurrough (Diarmid MacMurchada), King of Leinster, 1171; Pope Pius V, 1572; John Dryden, poet, 1700; Jean-François de Troy, painter, 1730; Dr John Walker, inventor of the friction

match, 1859; David Livingstone, ex-plorer, 1873; Antonia Leopold Dvorák, composer, 1904; Joseph Goebbels, Nazi leader and propaganda chief, committed suicide 1945; William Fox, film producer, 1952; Sylvin Townsend Warner, novelist, 1978. On this day: the Union of Scotland and England was proclaimed, 1707; Mozart's opera The Marriage of Figure was first performed, Vienna, 1786; the first tunnel on a railway in Britain was built, 1800; the London Library, founded by Thomas Carlyle, W.E. Gladstone, Lord Macaulay and others, was officially opened, 1841; the Great Exhibition was opened by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park, London, 1851; Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India, 1876; work on reclaiming the Zayder Zee was begun, 1919; Cyprus became a British Crown Colony, 1925; Professor Auguste Piccard

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made the first ascent into the stratosphere, a distance of just over 10 miles, 1931; in New York, the Empire State Building was opened, 1931; Berlin was captured by the Russians, 1945; in Britain, the gas industry was nationalised, 1949; in Clerkenwell, London, a bullion van was aftacked and a gang stole gold ingots worth £750,000, 1967. Tuday is May Day (Labour Day) and the Feast Day of St Amator or Amatre, St Briccus or Brieuc, St Joseph the Worker, St Peregrine Laziosi, St Sigismund of Burgundy and St Theodard of

Lectures

Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twohig, "Modern Utopia: Kandinsky, Male-vich and El Lissitzky", 1pm. Stirling University (Logie Lecture Theatre): Sir Crispin Tickell, "Eco-

nomical with the Environment a stion of values", 60m. Leicester University: Dr Chris Hunter, "Self-assembling Porphyrin Oligomers", 2pm. Loughburough University: Professor Neil Halliwell, "Shedding Light on

The Speaker

The Speaker of the House of Com-The Speaker of the Frouse of Com-mons, Miss Betty Boothroyd, held a dinner yesterday evening in Speak-er's House, London SW1, in honour of Dr Rodrigo Rivera Salazar, President of the Colombian House of Representatives, and Mrs Rivera. Señor Carlos Lemos-Simmonds, the Colombian Ambassador, and Señora Lemos-Simmonds were also

HMS Victory

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, hosted a dinner held yesterday evening on board his flagship, HMS Victory, at HM Naval Base, Portsmouth. Among the guests were Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and Mr Christopher Bland, Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight.

European-Atlantic Group

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Min-ister for Overseas Administration, was the guest of honour at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held yesterday evening at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. Her subject was 'Overseas Aid World-Wide".

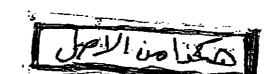
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Crogdon, Surrey. The Duke of Gloucester,
President, East Midlands Tourist Board,
right tourist sizes in Leicostershire and Nottinghamshire. The Duke of Kent, Patron,
the Thee Council, visits Painshill Park, Cubham. Surrey.

Changing of the Guard

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavairy blounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham; Nignegen Compa-ny Greundier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, H. Man. band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

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For Cazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011. (answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges



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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2093

Hanson's Grid stake sale sparks confusion

TOM STEVENSON

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The future of the National Grid was plunged into confusion yes-terday after Hanson sold its 12.5 electricity transmission network to James Capel, the broking arm of HSBC. The deal, which appeared to link the stake with a little-known Greek group with Saudi Arabian trading connections, sparked a wave of

James Capel remained tight-lipped on its plans for the 210.5 million shares it had bought, re-fusing to add to a statement that it had "hedged the market risk of the holding through a structured transaction with Cres-cent Holdings GmbH, a member of the Olayan group of

Athens-based Olayan was described yesterday as "usually a long-term shareholder". Its interests include Coca-Cola

Saudi Arabia. The £405m sale of shares in

the Grid to Capel for 192.5p a share left dealers confused about the ultimate buyer of the stake. Wide-ranging rumours during the day linked the holding with, among others .George Soros, the American speculator, and GEC, the defence and electronics group.

Some speculated that the sale might actually be no more

appear to comply with a re-quirement to reduce its holding in the Grid while retaining an economic interest in the shares. As the owner of a regional electricity company, Eastern Group, Hanson is under an obligation to cut its holding in the Grid to less than 1 per cent.

Hanson denied that it had any interest in the shares after the sale and described as coinci-dence the fact that Niven Duncan, a consultant to Olayan, was ignate of Eastern Group. Christopher Collins, vice chairman of Hanson, said: "Our transaction was with James Capel. This is not a case of us warehousing our shareholding. We no longer have any ecoownership rights or beneficial

interest Shares in National Grid rose op to 205p on the takeover talk, despite the fact that the company's independence is, in theory, protected by a govern-

ment "golden share", which caps individual stakes at 15 per

Hanson became the single biggest shareholder in the National Grid with 210.5 million shares when it bought the country's largest regional electricity company, Eastern Group, last

The 12 Recs in England and Wales owned the Grid before it was demerged and floated last December. The regulator, Stephen Littlechild, gave them

off almost all of their stakes. Rec to dispose of its stake. All

have now complied with the reg-ulator's order by reducing their stakes in the Grid to less than 1 per cent or handing on the shares to their own shareholders. A spokesman for Hanson said the group would use the

going disposal programme in the run-up to a planned four-

companies that hold an electricity licence or are wholesalers from holding more than 1 per cent in the Grid. There is also a 15 per cent stake limit on other companies and the Government also has a protective "golden share" in the company, proceeds to reduce debt and described the sale as part of an on-

which prevents a predator mov-

Taxpayer faces massive bill for power shake-up

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Government may be faced with a bill running into millions of pounds if it is to meet its target of allowing all 23 million domestic electricity customers to choose their supplier from 1998, it emerged yesterday. Industry officials have

warned that if competition is introduced on a trial basis before 1998 in the way that it has been in the gas industry - then it may result in large compensation payments to RJB Mining, head-ed by Richard Budge, which took over the English coalfields a vear ago.

The problem arises from the so-called "back-to-back" contracts signed between British Coal, the two electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen, and the 12 regional electricity companies at the time of privatisation.

Under these the generators are contracted to buy about £900m of coal a year from RJB Mining until April 1998. All the electricity generated from the servers believe that the Govcoal is then sold to the Recs to satisfy demand from the do-

If the market is opened up to mand from the generators and met

Officials at the Office of Electricity Regulation said yesterday that in such circumstances the Government would have to step in and compensate

This is one of the reasons it may not be possible to run pilot trials before April 1998, placing a question mark over the Government's ability to meet its

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry watchdog, insisted yesterday that the industry was "on track" to meet the target of liberalisation in 1998. He said he expected all the main elements needed to create the structure for competition to be in place within the next month. This would enable rival Recs and other suppliers to test their systems for supplying customers in regions other than their own and settle accounts within the market for England and Wales.

However, many industry obernment and the regulator have set themselves too formidable a timetable.

Professor Littlechild concompetition on a trial basis be- ceded it was "tight" but achievfore 1998 the Recs may lose able. But one large generator some customers. The knock-on said it did not see how the tareffects would be reduced deget date could conceivably be





Compensation rights: Richard Budge (right) and Stephen Littlechild, who Insists liberalisation is on track

Offer opposes **US** generator bid

The electricity industry regula-tor, Professor Stephen Lit-tlechild, gave his first indication yesterday that he would oppose any attempt by Southern Company of the US to take over National Power, Britain's biggest generator, writes Michael Har-

Professor Littlechild gave a clear hint that he would want any bid blocked on the same grounds that the Government barred the takeovers by National Power and PowerGen of regional electricity companies.

Southern also owns a REC-South Western Electricity - so any bid by it for National Power would amount to unacceptable vertical integration unless Southern disposed of its interest in Sweb.

Asked whether he would object to a merger between South-ern and National Power, Professor Littlechild said: "In as far as they would be run as a single company the same detriment would apply."
Professor Littlechild refused

to be drawn on whether he would open an inquiry into National Power if it went ahead with plans for a shareholder incentive package worth up to £2bn to fend off a possible Southern bid.

But it seems unlikely this would prompt a fresh review of electricity prices. National Power, he said, had been highly profitable since privatisation

ernment's decision to encourage more competition in the nerating market by blocking its takeover of Southern Elec

tric, the UK REC. Professor Littlechild also delivered a warning shot across the bows of PowerGen, saying that he expected the generator to go through with the £400m sale of power stations to the Hansonowned Eastern Group. PowerGen warned last week

that it was reconsidering the deal following Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang's shock decision to block its purchase of Midlands Electricity. But Professor Littlechild said: "I don't envisage that they will want to pull out of a sale they have agreed with another com-

pany. I would expect that sale will go ahead."

Behind the comment was a thinly-veiled warning that the regulator would have no hesittation in referring PowerGen to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if it backed out of its agreement to dispose of the

two power stations with a ca-pacity of 2,000 megawatts. "Clearly the situation would be serious if they didn't," he added. There was not enough competition in generation two years ago and there isn't enough

He was speaking as Offer announced that 1995 had been another good year for electricity customers with complaints which was why Offer had so down 20 per cent and prices 4

George says Britain may be safer outside the single currency

JOHN WILLCOCK and NIC CICUTTI

Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, vesterday said the UK should only adopt a single European currency if it was going to be a "safe club to join". He added that Britain

programme on BBC Radio 2. Mr George also admitted that he had been wrong last year when he argued with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that interest rates should go up rather could survive outside European than down. The Governor coneconomic and monetary union ceded that this disagreement was "whether or not EMU is a

and might be safer outside if the damaged his credibility with safe club to join." Referring to convergence criteria appeared many people, since it became obvious afterwards that the countries, he added: "If those Appearing on Jimmy Young's Chancellor's downward movement in rates had been the

correct one. When asked if Britain could exist perfectly well outside EMU, Mr George said: "I believe so." He said the issue for the UK, when the time came,

"tension" between other EU tensions looked serious, if the if they would be unsustainable, then frankly I think we could easily conclude that we would be safer, less exposed to risks of having problems visited upon us by standing on one side."

He said that there were seri-

ahead with EMU when unemployment was so high in Europe. He also said that if it looked as convergence criteria looked as though the tough EMU criteria on debt, budget deficits, inflation and exchange rates were not sustainable, then it would be in the UK's interest to stay outside.

Mr George was speaking as one of the Government's indeto go up after the next election, or public spending he slashed, if Britain was to meet the Maastricht EMU criteria. After overshooting forecasts by about £10bn last year, public borrowing in 1997/8 will remain well above the 3 per cent of GDP set by Maastricht, said Gavyn

Davies, chief economist at the

warned that taxes would have Sachs and one of the the Treasury's six "wise persons".

The main UK banks yesterday dented hopes of a rapid end six to eight weeks' time. to difficulties in the housing market, announcing that net mortgage lending in March, at £632m, was lower than the pre-

vious month. However, the British Bankers

26 per cent to 31,630 in March. Approvals are an important indicator of actual borrowing in

The BBA's figures came as a separate survey by TSB showed that since the new year the average cost of buying a home has dropped by 5.6 per cent, based on the cost of a typical mortgage Association added that the for each £100 of take-home pay.

NatWest retreats over attempts to oust Morton | Societies pull rug

tourist vehicles using its Dover-to-Calais service fell by 23 per sealink, in a bid to meet the in-

INTEREST RATES

Boud Yields

6.38

5.72

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

NatWest appeared to be in retreat yesterday on its behindthe-scenes attempt to unseat Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel.

This followed the disclosure vesterday that Roger Byatt, deputy chief executive of NatWest Markets, had suggested to Sir Alastair several times that he should quit early to smooth the path of debt negotiations with the banks.

Sources close to the negotiations said that leaks of NatWest's position were likely to forestall any attempts by Eurotunnel's leading banks to pressurise the company's board to drop Sir Alastair early. The banks have no direct power to

Sir Alastair's contract expires in October but he made

clear earlier this year that the Eurotunnel board has asked him to stay until the negotiations have been completed. to start later this month and may last well into the autumn.

The shipping, property and

construction group P&O yes-terday reported a sharp drop in

traffic on its cross-Channel fer-

ry route in the face of increased

competition from Eurotunnel.

vided further evidence that

consolidation among ferry op-

erators was only a matter of

P&O said the number of

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Analysts said the figures pro-

PATRICK TOOHER

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STOCK MARKETS

Mr Byatt and other senior fig-ures in NatWest including John Melbourn, a main board director, believe that Sir Alastair was The talks with the banks are due the right man to push through construction of the tunnel. But who is in charge of the Euro-

cent in the first three months of

this year, and the number of fer-

ry passengers carried dropped

as Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle ser-vice approached its natural

share of the market," the com-

nied reports that it was planning to merge its cross-Channel op-

The news came as P&O de-

Carryings continued to fall

by 17 per cent.

Money Market Rates

Germany 3.19
*Reschart Indices

5,31

else put in charge of renegoti- executive leading the campaign ation of the debt. In a statement, a NatWest spokesman denied that Mr By-

to unseat Sir Alastair. alt, the corporate lending chief

The bank also said the matter was not discussed at last Sunday's weekly meeting of the bank

construction of the tunnel. But who is in charge of the Euro-steering group, which is held the bank now wants somebody tunnel negotiations, was the alternately in London and Paris.

Eurotunnel takes wind out of P&O's ferries

the stories, but its managing di-

creasing challenge of Eurotun-nel head-on. "We have absolutely no plans t present for such rationalisation," a P&O spokesman said. But P&O has not ruled out the possibility of forming costcutting alliances at a later date. We have always said rational-

isation is inevitable on the cross-Channel route," spokesman added.

Stena Sealink also dismissed rector, Gareth Cooper, recenty said fierce price competition from Eurotunnel may force leading ferry companies to

restart merger talks. The Government originally blocked such a move between Stenz and P&O three years ago, but market conditions have changed considerably since the tunnel was opened two years should quit early has been discussed recently by leading banks. Sir Alastair has told them he intends to fight for the rights of shareholders under French law, which gives less weight to bank creditors in a financial rescue. NatWest is one of four lead

However, it is understood that

the issue of whether Sir Alastair

banks on the steering group handling negotiations on restructuring £8.1bn of Eurotunnel debt. It is understood that two key French banks on the steering committee, Credit Lyonnais and BNP, have not been pressing for Sir Alastair to leave early.

It also emerged that a decision last week by Eurotunnel to switch brokers from SBC Warburg to Kleinwort Benson was the final move in a complete severance of the company's connections with the investment hank

CURRENCIES

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from under the carpetbaggers

NIC CICUTTI

Derbyshire and Cheshire building societies yesterday joined a growing list of mutuals fighting back against "carpetbaggers" by announcing they would refuse to open new accounts from investors outside their regions.

The move is aimed at deterring speculative account-holders from disrupting the service offered by each society to exsting members. The decision by Derbyshire and Cheshire comes as the tiny

National Counties, with just one branch in Epsom, Surrey, also said it was sending back cheques to hundreds of prospective account-holders. A spokesman for Cheshire, the 19th-largest UK society with 60 branches, said: "Recently, we decided that we would raise the balance needed

anyone living outside our core Granada TV area, where most of our customers live. "Local people were still able to open an account for £100. Unfortunately, what we have found is that when you set limits like that it tends to make people think there is something

to open an account to £2,500 for

going on and they try even harder to open an account. "The inflow simply wasn't normal. Rather than raise expectations, we have decided to

stop people opening accounts with us," the spokesman added. A Derbyshire spokesman said his society, the 17th-largest

50,000 borrowers, was determined to remain mutual.

We have introduced measures to discourage speculative account openers and allow us to focus on a quality service to our proper customers in our own region," he said.

"A general measure is that we will not open any accounts for people resident outside the society's normal operating area outside the wider Midlands." The spokesman added that

the society's seven city-centre branches would bar new openings other than its Crown account, with a £1,000 minimum, or Capital Bond, with a £15,000 minimum, to anyone other than existing customers or those connected to them.

National Counties' move to send cheques back to prospec-tive members came after it was forced last month to close its doors to all new accounts.

The society, which has 15,000 savers and 5,000 borrowers, had been mundated by a speculative flood of money following reports that if it were taken over, members might be entitled to payments worth up to £4,500.

John Milton, general man-ager at National Counties, said yesterday: "We have been overapplications for new accounts. Speculative inflows are misplaced and unwelcome.

"The general reaction to our decision has been surprisingly

said one ministerial source.

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Web of intrigue surrounds sale of Grid shares Both Hanson and James Capel were to sell them to? And is this a transaction that qualifies for normal market-making privi-

night, but from this side of the fence it is hard to treat yesterday's £400m disposal of a 12.5 per cent stake in the National Grid with anything other than the utmost suspicion.

The questions start with why Hanson

should be disposing of these shares at all at this price. Hanson is on record as believing that they are worth a lot more while the company's planned demerger apparently solved the problem of the Government's insistence that it must dispose of the shares within a year of the National Grid's flotation.

The buyer is James Capel, which says it has hedged the position with the Olayan group of companies, a privately owned Athens-based concern that likes to dabble in derivative transactions of this sort. It just so happens that one Niven Duncan, a consultant to Olayan, used to be a non-executive director of Eastern Electricity, Hanson's electricity arm. Coincidence?

Why yes, says Hanson's Chris Collins, who insists that his company has no remaining beneficial or economic interest in the shares

That's what he says, so we must believe him, but there is still puzzlement in the City as to why James Capel should want to tie up £400m of its capital in the National Grid, hedged though the position may be. Does the hedge give Olayan, with its strong Saudi connections, any kind of an interest in the National Grid? Who does James Capel plan

leges? The situation demands further explanation, even if the answers ultimately prove entirely satisfactory.

Littlechild goes out on his own

Here's a conundrum, 1995 was the year when the electricity industry was consumed in a frenzy of takeover activity that saw shareholders rewarded royally and con-sumers by and large left out in the cold. You might have thought that any watchdog worth his salt would have something to say about this state of affairs and indeed Professor Stephen Littlehild, the director gen-

eral of electricity supply, does.
His verdict is that 1995 was "another good year for electricity customers". Complaints fell (unless you happened to be supplied by East Midlands Electricity, which was so busy downsizing itelf that it temporarily forgot it had any customers at all). Prices also fell (unless you happen to live in the North-west and get your juice from Norweb, which conveniently discovered that it had "underrecovered" its costs the year before and so

whacked up prices by 5 per cent.). Now Professor Littlechild is a contrary sort of regulator so perhaps we should not be too surprised at his stout defence of the electricity industry's record even as the eviquality of supply - power cuts to you and me have not decreased in aggregate at all.
 Against Midlands and Yorkshire they have increased considerably since privatisation and they have more than doubled against

Professor Littlechild's other bold assertion esterday was that the industry was "on track" and ready to meet the deadline of April 1998, when the domestic market will be thrown open to unfettered competition. Professor Littlechild may believe this but it is virtually impossible to find anyone inside the industry or government who shares his

The opening up of the electricity market is likely to be so fraught with difficulties that it will make the Government's less-thanimpressive attempts to liberalise the gas market look like a masterful piece of execution. It is just conceivable that the industry will have the systems in place by 1998 that will enable customers to switch off their local Rec and shop around elsewhere for supplies. But please don't ask if the system is actu-

ally going to be tested out on anyone resembling a real customer before it goes live in front of an audience of 23 million domestic

Given the mixed reception competition is getting among gas customers in the South-

bed will claim competitive disadvantage. Nationwide trials look a better bet but any-thing resembling a decent sample will run the risk that the Recs lose customers for their coal-powered contracts in the franchise

When competition was introduced into the 100-kilowatt market and above - a market that consists of just 50,000 customers the result was such a dog's dinner that the accountants Coopers and Lybrand remarked that, if repeated with the domestic market it spelled "potential disaster". Professor Littlechild's problem is that he has to believe 1998 will happen. It was, after all, his obstinate belief that 12 independent Recs as opposed to a a handful of integrated players was the best way to achieve competition that made him oppose the National Power

and PowerGen takeovers. Nobody else has to share that view. Nor are they likely to.

NatWest outgunned in the Channel

That was the coup that never was. The A troops were marshalled, the ground prepared, the Sunday press briefed and ... er ... well, perhaps not yet chaps. At the last moment NatWest lost its nerve and abanwest, proper trials might seem to be a pre-requisite. It is unclear whether we will get doned its whispering campaign to oust Sir

dence suggesting something less flattering any. Regional trials are a non-starter Alastair Morton as co-chairman of Eurois mounting before our eyes. Moans about because any Rec that is singled out as a test tunnel. It is only possible to speculate on why, tunnel. It is only possible to speculate on why, since, as is usually the case with failed coups, NatWest is now refusing to admit that any such plan was ever hatched.

Suffice it to say that the threat of legal action if it could be shown that NatWest had become actively involved in the management of Eurotunnel was a potent reason for holding back. By pushing for Sir Alastair's removal, even in a roundabout sort of way, NatWest was perilously close to making itself a shadow director of Eurotunnel, which in turn laid it open to action by angry shareholders desperate for retribution from anyone with the money to pay. In French law, and to some extent British as well, NatWest might have been made liable for what many shareholders insist was an essentially false

prospectus. Presumably NatWest hoped that by re-moving Sir Alastair it would gain a more compliant Eurotunnel board, one that could be bulldozed more easily into the kind of reconstruction bankers, as opposed to share-

holders, want to see. It didn't work. Sir Alastair is indeed planning to leave, but in his own good time and after negotiating a deal that ensures at least a proportion of the tunnel's future cash flow is guaranteed to its long-suffering equity investors. Bankers might like to believe they still hold all the strings, but it is nice to know that just occasionally they still get out-manocuvred.

Cedric the Pig is indisposed but shareholders still unleash volleys of criticism during British Gas agm

Controversy over fat cats dogs Brown to the end

NIGEL COPE

Cedric Brown, the controversial British Gas chief executive, finally stepped down from the company yesterday, although criticism of his pay, generous pension and stewardship of the accident-prone group dogged him to the end.

ing in Birmingham, Mr Brown said he planned to have a few days off, take up fishing and possibly write a book.

"I'm going to enjoy life and spend some time with my family who have been very

Asked if he was proud of what he had achieved at the company that he joined 43 years ago he said: "I achieved what I set out to do. But others will have to judge."
He admitted that the 'fat cat'

pay row had wounded him but refused to apologise for the embarrassment the scandal had caused the company.

"Some of it did hurt. If you are a human being it is going to. There are probably very few business people that have ex-perienced that kind of thing. We're not trained for it. But you learn to cope with it and learn a lot about yourself."

Mr Brown, whose 75 per cent pay increase in 1994 sparked the 'fat cat' controversy, declined to say whether he felt relief or sadness on his Speaking after the company's last day. "I am going to look put the last two years in context. There's been a lot written about it and there's nothing more I

> Mr Brown's retirement will be cushioned by a £240,000 annual pension and a £120,000 consultancy fee, as well as a chauffeur-driven car and staffed office. Although he has more than 700,000 share options, most are worthless due to the low level of the British Gas share price.

> British Gas had been braced for a large and unruly shareholders' meeting after last year's event when nearly 5,000 investors descended on the Docklands Arena in London and a 20-stone pig gorged itself on a trough of share options. This time only 500 turned up



You learn to cope with it and learn a lot about yourself: Cedric Brown bows out

make it. The sow is heavily pregnant and was deemed unfit for travel.

Shareholders complained about the early 10am start and many were late, saying they couldn't find the National Exhibition Centre, British Gas denied that it had deliberately timed the start to prevent a larger turn-out and a potential repeat of last year's fiasco.

Shareholders were divided in their opinion of Cedric Brown's performance as chief executive. blame. They have made this

and Cedric the pig couldn't Most displayed a mixture of either anger or pity. Noel Fal-coner, a small shareholder who failed in his bid to be elected to the board, was the most vocal. "Cedric Brown has been a disaster as a chief executive. He is a super engineer but he was capabilities." promoted

Another shareholder called for the whole board to resign: 1995 was disastrous for the repmation and image of British Gas and I believe the directors are to

company a laughing stock. Why don't they all just go now?" How-ever, the chairman, Richard

Giordano, said the board was committed to carrying on. Mr Brown did have some supporters. Mr Gibson from Glasgow said: "I am genninely sorry to see Cedric Brown go today. The man has given 40 years to this company, boy and man, and we should recognise

that." Polite applause followed. Dennis Blakemore, a former water industry worker, who had cycled 23 miles from Stratford Water groups under French control, General Utilities and SAUR
 Water Services, yesterday called for their proposed £75m bid for Mid Kent Holdings to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after the High Court refused to rule on the issue. Mid Kent, which runs water services for 540,000 people in the county, had asked the court to uphold a 1991 undertaking by General Utilities not to increase its stake in the water company above 19.5 per cent. The application followed a December announcement by General and SAUR, which together own 39 per cent of Mid Kent, that they were ready to bid 440p a share in the absence of an MMC inquiry. The court decided the only person who could bring legal proceedings on the subject was Ian Lang. President of the Board of Trade. Last night, he was said to be considering whether a referral was appropriate. Mid Kent's shares were unchanged at 433p.

 Allied Domecq, the UK drinks group, may buy out the majority shareholding in its French champagne associate Lanson Pere et Fils from its parent Marne et Champagne. The decision on whether to proceed was said by an industry source yesterday to depend on the outcome of a court case between the two companies. Allied is suing the French owner for breach of contract over a distribution agreement for Lansons champagne.

• Conrad Black, effective owner of The Telegraph newspaper group, has agreed to acquire seven newspapers on Canada's Allantic coast from the Thomson Corporation. The Toronto-based Thomson also said it was in discussions with a potential buyer for seven daily papers in Ontario. The price of the latest deal with Mr Black's Hollinger group was not disclosed. Last year, Mr Black bought 19 newspapers from Thomson,

sumer confidence in the US is surging as anxiety about job cuts and corporate down-sizing shows signs of dissipating. The Conference Board's index shot up to 105.3 in April from a revised 98.4 in March. The last time that the index was higher was in May 1990. The recovery in consumer sentiment is likely to extinguish any remaining hopes on Wall Street of a cut in interest rates. And with inflationary pressures showing signs of gathering, some analysts are beginning to see a scenario for a rate increase.

 Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday launched an international campaign for global free trade. In a speech in London, Mr Lang outlined his "2020 vision", calling for removal of all remaining trade barriers by that year. It is the first time a trade minister from a leading industrialised nation has set a target for achieving fully liberalised markets. Mr Lang's speech, at a British-American Chamber of Commerce lunch, underlined his determination that the international community should not lose the momentum achieved during the Uruguay round of trade talks.

 General Accident has reached agreement with Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP) to buy its 99.9 per cent stake in UAP International Allgemeine and UAP International Lebensversicherung for £61m cash.

BT group in £1.5bn Italian plan | Lang backs pensions crackdown

MICHAEL HARRISON

British Telecom and its partners in the Italian telecommunications joint venture Albacom plan to invest up to £1.5bn over the next five years if they are awarded a licence to provide full telecoms services in Italy. The joint venture will bid for

the licence next year in competition with a grouping led by the Italian financier Carlo de Benedetti and France Telecom. Alfred Mockett, managing di-

rector of BT Global Commu-nications, said yesterday that Albacom would be in a prime Mediaset. In return Mediaset is paying £22m for a 30 per cent stake in Albacom. Albacom would be in a prime position to take advantage of the liberalisation of the £11bn Italian market as competitors are allowed to take on the duopoly of Telecom Italia and

He was speaking as BT and the Italian bank BNL, joint owners of Albacom, confirmed they are to pay £71m for a 2.4 per cent stake in Silvio Berlusconi's television empire

Mr Mockett described the cross-shareholding arrangement as a marriage certificate. As a dowry, Mr Berlusconi is giving Albacom all the telecoms business of Fininvest, the parent company of Mediaset

The deal will give BT access to Mediaset's microwave network, which consists of 1.800 sites across Italy that could be able to take advantage of Mediaset's three network national television stations and its

voice network. A Mediaset spokesman said the Albacom joint venture would initially target big Italian industrial groups such as Fiat for their telecoms business

BT and BNL are also likely to sell off more of their holding in Albacom, with Snam, the gas business of Eni, a possible investor.

The Government will incorporate new proposals for much greater disclosure of directors' pension entitlements into the Companies Act, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said

This followed confirmation by the Stock Exchange that it had agreed to changes in its rulebook to enforce recommendations on pensions disclosure by

the Institute and Faculty of

Photograph: Newsteam

upon-Avon to attend the meet-

ing, was more critical, saying:
"I'd like just a fraction of his

pension. There must be people

who could do a better job. I in-

vested in this company as a kind

of little Sid and have been wait-

ing for the better times to

The company's customer

service levels were also

criticised as new figures from

the Gas Consumers Council

showed complaints about the

firm's supply and service had doubled in 1995.

come. They never have."

The actuaries have come down in favour of a compromise to satisfy the objections of big companies and the CBI and the Institute of Directors to their original proposal, which was to publish the full transfer value of

directors' pensions.

The employers proposed watering this down so only the amount of pension payable in retirement was disclosed in annual reports.

Disclosure of capital values - essentially the cost of funding

these pension payments would be around 10 times as high and would lead to severe embarrassment for some companies. In the case of senior directors who take large pay increases near retirement, this could throw up multi-million-

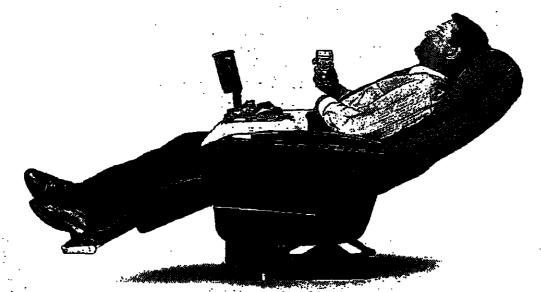
pound figures. After extensive consultations, the actuaries found opinion was split, with investors leaning towards disclosure of capital

values and many companies following the CBI line.

The compromise to be adopted by the Stock Exchange and the DTI is to require companies to report the amount of pension payable annually in retirement, as the CBI wants.

In addition, they must either give the capital value or enough further information for outsiders to make their own calculations of the capital value. The information will cover at

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Airlines





business

Abtrust emerges as a new force

Abtrust Emerging Economies has proved a disappointment since it floated at 100p in November 1993. With a heavy weighting towards Latin America, the investment trust was unlucky in being hit by the Mexican peso crisis just a year after launch. In September 1994, on the eve of Mexico's financial melt-down, the largest part of the fund was in that country. That did not help net assets per share, which had slumped from 101.8p to

82.9p in the year to last September. But yesterday's half-way figures show that the trust is mounting a strong comeback. Net assets have surged 13 per cent to 93.6p in the six months to March, easily outperforming the In-ternational Finance Corporation composite index of emerging markets, which was up less than 10 per cent in

sterling terms over the same period.

That performance has helped the fund overtake its peers among general emerging market funds. The average growth for the seven trusts monitored by the Association of Investment Trusts is 9 per cent over six months and 18 per cent over 12. Abtrust, by contrast, has notched up an impressive 26

per cent advance since March of 1995. The fund's outperformance has been helped by a definite move away from Latin America, where it is underrepresented compared with rivals by around 5 percentage points. Whether by accident or design. Abtrust's decision to place its bets on Asia has paid off, With 63 per cent of assets in that region in March, it has cashed in handsomely on the sharp rebound in

Far Eastern stock markets. Despite signs of a rebound in sentiment towards Latin America, Abtrust is recycling those Asian profits into Europe, the Middle East and Africa. It plans to drive up the proportion of as-sets in these regions to 15-20 per cent. But, although the fundamentals are

improving around the world, a more worrying aspect of the recent revival in emerging markets is the support provided by the money flowing out of the developed markets in the US and Europe into other parts of the world. If that prop is genuinely structural, seeking the superior long-term returns expected from the old Third World, then it is good news. If those funds take flight at the first hint of the next Mexican crisis, the ride for shareholders in emerging markets could be no smoother in

the future than it has been in the past. In that event, investors will be better off in a general fund like Abtrust. even though the discount to net asset value has narrowed to 2 per cent, with the shares up 0.5p at 91.5p yesterday. Add in the value of the warrants and

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN first cash call since the shares were floated at 78p in December 1993 and should see ODI through the next two

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Abtrust Emerging Economies: at a glance

.... -- Abtrust Emerging Economies

IFC Composite weekly price index in sterling

Abtrust is less than 1p away from the original offer value. But investors seeking safety in these turbulent markets might prefer a bigger and more liquid fund such as Templeton Emerging.

ODI needs more focus

The information era being formed as the computing, media and telecommunication worlds converge offers investors unlimited opportunities. The problem is that nobody knows what this new age will look like or how the technology will work, let alone who the winners will be.

Some may not even be born yet. For tiddlers like loss-making electronic publisher On Demand Information to succeed they need to focus their expertise on niche markets by selling either distribution (hardware) technology or information (software) content.

Rather confusingly, Leeds-based ODI claims to be doing both. Its big idea is to revive the concept of the paperless office by developing con-

Asset allocation

(March 1996)

Share price

stantly up-dated, on-line directories and brochures for Internet pages that save its corporate clients valuable storage

space and retrieval time Examples include the world's first system simultaneously to transmit images and speech over the World Wide Web - the fastest-growing part of the Internet - and a recent, four-year distribution deal giving BT the right to sell ODI's multimedia products aimed at the pernnel and construction markets.

ODI is also looking to exploit op-portunities to build and update encrypted company Web pages. Although Web page production is very much a cottage industry, multimedia consultants Durlacher estimate that the UK's top 40,000 companies will be linked to the Web by the year 2000, spending up to £70,000 a year maintaining information on their own site. To tap into this potential £2.5bn mar-

ket, ODI wants to hire another 60 staff on top of the 240 it already employs. That, and the prospect of maiden profits by the end of this calendar year,

But ODI persists in being all thing to all people. It has four divisions involved in everything from interactive television, CD-Roms for training programmes and healthcare videos. Until there is more evidence of focus, decline the rights.

Pet City has further to go

Pet City's first results since joining the Alternative Investment Market at the end of last year were pretty much in line with expectations at the time of the flotation.

on Thursday.

for five years after being con-

victed of handling £400,000

stolen by Nadir. The original publication date of 2 April had to be ditched when

Forsyth's trial on charges of

money-laundering went against her. She then had to

writer to write a last chapter.

Yorkshire Water infuriated

day by imposing a blanket county-wide hosepipe ban -

and then rejecting an invita-

tion to sponsor a prayer for

shire choir at St George's

Hall, Bradford, is singing

A spokesman for the

for support.

rain. A combined West York-

Mendelssohn's oratorio, Elijah, on Saturday, and they approached Yorkshire Water

millions of customers yester-

set to work with a ghost

Operating profits before store open-ing costs of £78,000 were up a fraction on last year's first half after a 48 per cent rise in sales to £25.9m. After a slight slow-down in the rate

of openings, the loss before tax for the six months to January was £293,000, down from £694,000. More importantly, the company said its planned expansion to 75 sites by the end of July 1007 from the 30 tending expansion. 1997, from the 39 trading currently, was on track, despite having fallen behind original expectations.

The Pet City concept is intriguing, a

chain of out-of-town pet superstores that the company boasts are "more like going to the 200 than just shopping". And the fledgling group has ambitious plans - a network of 300 stores is planned by the year 2003.

That has already been reflected in the share price, which has risen more than a third from the 300p placing price, after a sparkling debut when they jumped to a first-day premium of 55p. After an-other 20p rise, they closed yesterday at

415p.
On the basis of illustrative projections, the company, which is aiming for the sort of category dominance enjoyed by businesses such as B&Q and Toys R Us, could be making sales of over £200m and profits of about £9m by the year to July 1999.

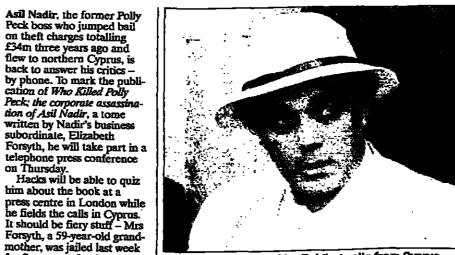
Assuming a full tax charge on that profit, the resultant earnings per share of about 25p would put the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 16 three years out.

That seems a pretty steep price to pay for a company that is yet to prove that its range, price advantage and "shop-ping experience" is enough to tempt shoppers out of the supermarkets, Pet City's largest competitor. In the meantime the shares are high enough.

Nadir keeps his distance for Polly Peck whodunit

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



Old hat: Asil Nadir will be fielding calls from Cyprus

choirs said: "The work is basically about heavenly relief from drought and famine and contains the lines, The deeps afford no water and the rivers are exhausted'. We're going to use the occasion to pray for rain and thought it entirely appropri-ate to ask Yorkshire Water for some sort of support."

A spokeswoman for Yorkshire Water replied: "We will have to rely on our own efforts to beat the drought."

Nice to know that Glaxo Wellcome's assets are protected from the vagaries of the divorce courts. Earlier this year, it emerged that one of the giant drug group's more unusual properties was

Oh to be a City spin doctor. Shandwick was handling the PR for British Gas at its AGM in Birmingham yesterday. After the meeting finished most of the Shandwick personnel hot-footed it back to the railway station. Not so Colin Trusler, chairman of Shandwick UK, and James Poole, a director of Shandwick Consultants, who were whisked back to London in a helicopter

- "for a new business meeting," according to the firm. The liveliest moment of the AGM itself came when a Glaswegian shareholder, a Mr Gibson, contrasted the success of BT with the problems of British Gas. Mr Gibson then added it was not up to him to praise an Edinburgh man - BT's chairman Sir Iain Vallance. "You should see them," he said. "They're the most miserable people you ever meet. There's more life in a Glasgow funeral."

a share in a home in the exclusive London district of Chelsea belonging to Sean Lance, the group's supremo for Europe, Africa, the Middle East and most of Asia. The latest accounts reveal Glaxo sank £75,000 in the property, but failed to mention that it related to a flat in Draycott Place, behind Sloane Square, the eponymous haunt of young unmarried ladies seeking an entree

SEAC VOLUME

into a higher class of drawer. Clearly if, heaven forbid, Mr Lance was to part company with his wife, Glaxo could be exposed to the risk that the estranged spouse might seek her share of the spoils from this plainly desirable property. But the Independent can now reveal that such eventualities have already been anticipated.

An ante-nuptial contract between one Sean Patrick Lance and his intended, made in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1990 has come to light. Assuming there aren't two Sean Patrick Lances in the world, both hailing from South Africa, it would appear that he keeps the property and Glaxo's asset is safe. Thank goodness for lawyers.

In Brief

 Aromascan, the digital aroma technology group, has teamed up with Mitsubishi Electric of Japan to form a five-year joint development and marketing agreement. Aromascan's proprietary sensor technology will be a key element in the development of automated industrial process control systems. Mitsubishi has revenues of more than \$36.5bn, with strong positions in advanced micro-electronics and industrial automation.

• Shares in SkyePharma, the new group run by ex-Medeva boss Ian Gowrie-Smith, will resume trading on the main market on Friday after nearly six weeks of suspension. Dealings on Aim were halted in March following news of the acquisition of private Swiss

• Lucas moved to quell speculation that Rover Group boss John Towers would be joining the group. A spokesman said: "It is purely media speculation. The recruitment process is not yet complete." Mr Towers yesterday shocked the motor industry by resigning as | to supply data through the comchief executive of Royer.

• Cray Electronics said yesterday it had had a satisfactory second half with profits in Cray Systems and P-E higher than in the first half. The company's cash position has also stabilised after a heavy outflow in the first half.

 Smith & Nephew had another strong day, with its shares up 3
per cent as the market warmed to the link-up with US group Advanced Tissue Sciences. They will produce the first "off-the-shelf" hio-engineered human skin replacement. Dermagraft is targeted at the \$2.5bn market for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers.

 Shell plans to invest \$75m in India to manufacture and market petroleum products, natural gas, liquified natural gas and petro-chemicals in India. The Anglo-Dutch oil group has sought permission from the Indian government to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in the country.

 Cantab Pharmaceuticals has appointed Michael Redmond, a former executive director of Fisons, as a non-executive director with immediate effect.

 Boxmore International, the Northern Irish packaging group, is talking to drugs giant Glaxo Wellcome about the purchase of part of its pharmaceutical printing and packaging businesses. No

 Glaxo Wellcome has won approval from a key sub-committee of the US Food and Drug Administration for its new analgesic drug, Ulitva, used during anaesthesia.

informative:

The following First Direct interest rates apply from 1 May 1996.

Overdraft Rate	Interest Rate %pa	%EAR
Agreed overdraft for		
balances up to £250	13.2 %	14.0%
Agreed overdraft for		
balances over £250	16.2%	17.4%
Unauthorised borrowin	g	
(no change)	22.2%	24.6%

	First Direct Premier Cheque Account						
ぢ	Overdraft Rate Agreed overdraft	Interest Rate %pa	%EAR				
ā	to C10 000	9.0%	9.3%				
-	Unauthorised borrowing (no change)	22.2%	24.6%				
irs							

First Direct is a division of Midfand Bank pic

MAID shares soar on news of IBM link

PATRICK TOOHER

Shares in MAID leaped 26p to 240p yesterday after the on-line business information provider signed an agreement with IBM puter giant's Internet service.

The deal is the latest in a series of alliances that have seen MAID link up with Bill Gates' Microsoft and other leading industry players such as Compuserve, one of the largest consumer on-line information

Speaking from California, where IBM is unveiling its strategy for the Internet, Dan Wag-ner, chief executive of MAID, said the revenue potential from the latest deal was "eve-nonping" but refused to give any

numbers. "It has phenomenal implications for us because we are so tiny," he said. "We have always believed that there are many complementary distribution channels for our highly structured databanks of valuable material which are more effectively reached aligned with

others rather than in isolation." He also hinted that more distribution deals are in the pipeline. IBM will distribute MAID's news and research databases through Infomarket, which is part of its new Internet-based corporate information services to be marketed world-wide through IBM's extensive network. "It immediately places IBM as a major business information supplier," said Tom McClain, gener-

what Mr Wagner calls "the lion's share" from the sale of

in June 1994. All Share index last year.

al manager of IBM's electronic content services division. In return, MAID will receive

base - supplies packaged, on-

MAID

strare price, pence

line services such as market research reports, brokers' analysis and company statistics to busi-ness professionals for a fee.

The shares have had a rollercoaster ride since being placed on the stock market two years ago at 110p. Investors balked at the idea of paying the original flotation price of 150p, which would have valued a company making profits of £600,000 at more than £120m.

Winning favour in the City continued to prove elusive and the shares slumped to just 45p

News of a joint venture with Microsoft to provide information services for Windows 95 sent the shares sky-rocketing to a high of 354p, making them the best performers in the FT-SE

Last November MAID raised \$38.4m in a US listing on the Nasdaq market, where technology stocks enjoy a strong fol-lowing and a higher rating among investors.

Mr Wagner remains unhappy with the reception he re-ceived in the UK. "We have something of tremendous val-ue which is recognised in the US, but I'm not sure that is so MAID - short for Market in the UK, where we are still Analysis and Information Data-seen as a bit of an upstart."

	22.270	24.0%		COMPAN	IY RESULT	2		}	• 11
ot Gromi	ier Cheque Acco	runt	<u></u>	Tarnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend	} }	
CL PICAL	iei oneque Acco		Air Leadon leti (1)	16.23m (12.16m)	0.99m (0.38m)	6.5p (2.8p)	1.9p (1.6p)	11	
Inte	erest Rate %pa	%EAR	Dana Petroleum (P)	- (-)	-0 68m (-0.25m)	-0.35p (-0.34p)	a# (-)	1 1	
			James Finlay (F)	166.1m (176.4m)	3.6m (7.3m)	· (-)	3.15p (-)	1 1	•
	9.0%	9.3%	On Demand Information (I)	5.7m (5.1m)	-1.3m (-1.3m)	0.42p (-0.21p)	nii (-)	11	
owing			Pacific Media (F)	1.67m (0.94m)	-5.4m (-2.1m)	0.42p (-0.21p)	nii (-)	11	
	22.2%	24.6%	Per City Holding (1)	25.9m (17.4m)	-0.29m (-0.69m)	-2.74p (-8.4p)	n# (-)	11	
			Tellow Oil (F)	5.31m (3.62m)	1 19m (1.16m)	(qe6.0) q88.0	nii (-)	11	
			Westmoord Everyy (i)	0.11m (0.02m)	0.05m (-0.005m)	O 045p (-0.014p) nill (-)	11	
		_	Whitehorth Group (F)	48.5m (45m)	0.71m (0.97m)	3.41p (5 13p)	1.6 (-)		_
land Bank pi	ic Member HSB	C 🐼 Group	(F) - Filmal (I) - Imperim	(N) - Hine months	_	_			i i
- -		sne sate. 🔻	voen i realised that	tors breac	hed the 19	76 Euro-	have to ame	nd legislation.	

GRE takes over RAC insurance arm

NIC CICUTTI

Guardian Royal Exchange, the UK insurer, yesterday sealed a £70m deal to take over RAC Insurance Brokers, the roadside assistance organisation's insur-

the RAC's name to market its financial service products to the club's six million members and to the public. The arrangement will last for 10 years and is renewable. In return, the RAC will market its own prod-

ucts to GRE customers. kind, marks a fresh twist in the writing and customer service systelehone insurance war which. tems. In turn, the sale relieves despite its rapid expansion in the RAC of its own broking arm the past few years, has been at a time when several nation-

dominated by a handful of companies including Direct Line and Churchill. GRE expects that the RAC peting with direct insurers.

broking arm's 325,000 customers will mostly or wholly The deal allows GRE to use telephone insurance arm. By buying customers in this way, GRE is bypassing the need to build up a base by means of its own underwriting and marketing skills alone.

The RAC's broking arm will continue to trade under its RAC brand name, but will benefit The takeover, the first of its from Guardian Direct's under-

Swinton and AA Insurance, have faced difficulties in com-

Last year, the AA's motor insurance arm admitted losing uing premium war and mass desertions by its customers. Swinton has been forced to close branches and set up its own telephone broking service to compete with the opposition.

officer at the RAC, said: own thoughts of how to devel- through GRE.

al insurance brokers, including op the brand to enhance services to RAC members. This new alliance will bring real benefits to both organisations and their customers.

John Robins, group chief exmillions of pounds for the first ecutive at GRE, said: "This Guardian Direct, the company's time in the wake of the contin- agreement adds an extremely powerful brand to our marketing. GRE will strengthen considerably its position in the direct writing market in the UK

Little Control

Ages Anter and

The deal, which was helped by Phoenix Securities, involves Neil Johnson, chief executive a £50m payment by GRE to the RAC. In addition, GRE takes "Guardian Royal Exchange has on £4.7m of RAC Insurance demonstrable strengths in Services' debt. A further £18m brand development and mar-keting. I am delighted that its on the number of policies rewill be paid by GRE depending philosophy is in tune with our newed by RAC policyholders

Colonial float offers share bonanza

nounced plans to float the company before the end of the fy those needs together. year, entitling its 350,000 policyholders in the UK to free shares worth an average of £1,500

each, writes Nic Cicutti. government in the wake of its A\$576m (£290m) purchase of State Bank in 1993.

David Adam, chairman of Colonial, said the decision to float had also been conditioned ready access to capital. He told members at yester-

Colonial Mutual, the large Australian insurer, yesterday andeveloped to allow people with similar needs to join and satis-

"But with changing attitudes to savings and retirement security, the whole of the product range of participants in the in-The company's plan to seek a stock market listing follows an dustry has to change and broaden. It has not been possible, even agreement with the Australian if it had been desirable, for any company to limit itself to what its original business was as a mutual and still remain viable."

Mr Adam said policyholders would be able to cast their votes at an extraordinary genby the company's long-term eral meeting planned for No-plans to diversify and obtain wember. If the vote is in favour, the issuing of shares in the company would take place day's annual meeting: "The shortly after.

birth certificates and passports." | missioning LKA weapons."

Colonial Mutual, founded in 1873, is Australia's sixth-largest insurer with some A\$34bn under management. It reported

earnings of A\$726m in 1995. The company yesterday reits likely value at flotation. However, some Australian analysts yesterday valued the company at A\$1.5-2bn.

If any shares distribution were based on equal amounts for all, each of its 750,000 eligible policyholders could receive shares worth £1,500. In practice, payouts are likely to be based on their length of time as policyholders, together with the type and amount of any investment.

niai Mutuai runs a 500-strong direct salesforce plus 50 appointed representatives from its headquarters in Chatham, Kent. Total premium income in 1995 was £222m, while its UK fused to give any indication of funds under management reached £3bn. The company recently launched a telephonebased mortgage service in this

country. The insurer has 500,000 policyholders in the UK, of whom two-thirds will be eligible for benefits. The remainder will not be counted as members because they have the wrong type of policy.

A company spokesman said before demutualisation took In the UK since 1886, Colo-in Colonial's jurisdictions.

STROUD ②SWINDON MORTGAGE COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE CHANGE

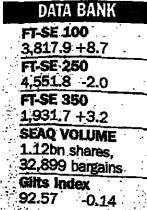
The Company's variable rate of mortgage interest will decrease by 0.25% from 1st May 1996.

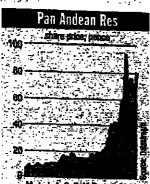
This notice is applicable to borrowers of the Stroud & Swindon Mortgage Company Limited whose mortgage payments are updated annually. The effect of this and any other changes this year will be included in the Annual Update of payments in January 1997.

Head Office: Rowcroft, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3BG, Tel: (01453) 757011



said one ministerial source.





Perfect skin puts Smith & Nephew in high-tech glare

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group which has enjoyed many spectacular takeover runs, could be about to assume a new role - biotech hotshot.

Its skin-growing link with a US group could move S&N to the cutting edge of health development, making its shares a much more realistic play than many of the over-hyped drug hopefuls where blue-sky considerations represent most of the share price.

S&N, long seen as an obvi-ous target for the US health group Johnson & Johnson, gained 4.75p to 193.25p, a two-day uplift of 7.75p, a remarkable advance by a group which normally has to be con-tent with fractional movements. It has linked with Advance Tissue Sciences of California, which has discov-

ered how to grow skin from human cells held in "tissue

on the market next year.

However, the S&N link has not impressed all followers. Some believe it, like the drugs giant Glaxo Wellcome, needs a significant acquisition to keep its products momentum

The rest of the stock market had an uneventful session, even though the FT-SE 100 index made headway and volume topped 1.1 billion shares.

Footsie rose 8.7 points to 3,817.9, shrugging off worries about tomorrow's elections. Indeed, the market takes the view that yet another Tory rout could increase pressure for lurking predators to get their bids done and dusted before Labour (new or old) arrives in

the corridors of power.

Blue chips for once outpaced supporting shares, with the FT-SE 250 index falling for the second day running. Turnover was inflated by Hanson's possible sale of 12.5



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

British Airways continued to

a legacy from the Rent-okil/BET confrontation. Grid TI Group, meeting fund managers under the Kleinturnover ballooned to 236.6 wort Benson umbrella, remillion shares; Rentokil to 90.06 million. The Grid price sponded with a 10p gain to 547p.MAID climbed 26p to rose 6p to 205p and Hanson was just a shade firmer at 240p (after 264p) on its IBM deal. Ladbroke declined 7.5p to 195.5p as the possibility was accepted that any hotel

SmithKline Beecham, brief-ing analysts in Belgium and exdeal may not lead to a bid and Body Shop International held at 161p after notifying the Stock Exchange that its figures would be released tomorrow. pected soon to get approval for a heart treatment from the US Food & Drug Administration, moved ahead 8.5p to 704.5p. FDA approval of Glazo's Ultiva anaesthetic listed the shares 13.5p to 806p. British Biotech, with meetings later

the best-performing blue chip, gaining 21p to 469p, with the market allegedly short of stock. Moss Bros, the clothing retailer long seen as a possible bidder for Austin Reed, rose 28p to 938p. An upbeat retail sales

Trocadero, confirming its Enid Blyton deal, held at 72p and Pan Andean Resources, seeking oil in Bolivia, surged 11p to 81p ahead of tomorrow's expected assessment from its dominant partner, the Australian BHP giant.

More arrivals on AIM. Waterfall, a leisure group placed at 45p, reached 56p. The company, 25 per cent owned by First Leisure Corporation, has 20 snooker clubs and runs three nightclubs. FNR, with forestry interests in the former Soviet Union, touched 39p

a 30p fall to 2,443p.
Battered Cray Electronics

market report/shares

recovered 5p to 48p following a positive trading statement and Knox D'Arcy, the investment trust born out of the remains of Ingham, once a car parts and worsted business, re-

management consultants with an impressive record of company turnarounds. It intends to use its quoted vehicle as an investment trust specialising in

hard-pressed groups.

David Whelan, the former footballer who runs JJB Sports, is the latest to cash in on sporting shares. He and his wife, Patricia, netted around £2.8m from the sale of 394,000 shares at 715p. Last week the sports shops chain produced

Stockbroker Neilson Cobbold, based at Liverpool, 21-tracted attention. The shares, which arrived on AIM at 145p in October, rose 40p, hitting a 270p peak. The group, which has an investment management operation, reported profits of £884,000 turned at 36p, just above the suspension price.

Knox D'Arcy is a firm of a target as the financial infor last year. With a £7.2m market valuation it could be dustry is reshaped.

TAKING STOCK

Queens Moat Houses, the hotel group, continues to gather Continental support. A mystery Swiss investor who shares has picked up 3.5 mil-lion, lifting his interest to 13.8 per cent. The general view is that the Swiss involvement is passive, with the shareholder banking on QMH's recovery. Yet some wonder whether the stake will be a platform for one of the predators, said to be circling.

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| Second

fret about the possibility of a rights issue, falling 8p to 519p. National Power ignored Southfrom a 35p placing.

Exco, the money broker. this month on its cancer treat-ment, stretched to new highs, profits up 70 per cent to £12.9m. The shares shaded 3p em's request for a list of shareholders, losing 10p to 561p. Argos, the stores group, was rose 3p to 103p, reflecting di-rector buying, but Perpetual's per cent of National Grid and up 50p at 2,925p. The independent index FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour | The content of the Property

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Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by lest year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional terms. Other details: or Ex nights x Ex-dividend xa Ex all u Unitsted Securities Naylet's Suspended. The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Sear, S 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code primed next to each share. To access

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GRAND PRIX

'96 RACE

SCHEDULE

San Marino GF

Monaco GP

Canadian GP

May 5

May 19 Spanish GP

June 2

June 16

June 30

July 14

July 28

August 11

French GP

British GP

German GP

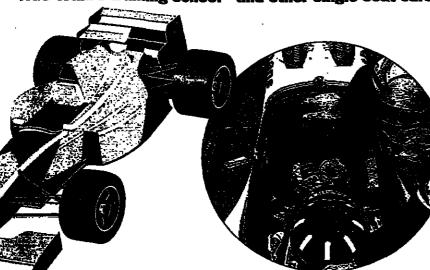
Hungarian GP

Team **Position** Check Line: 0891 891 806

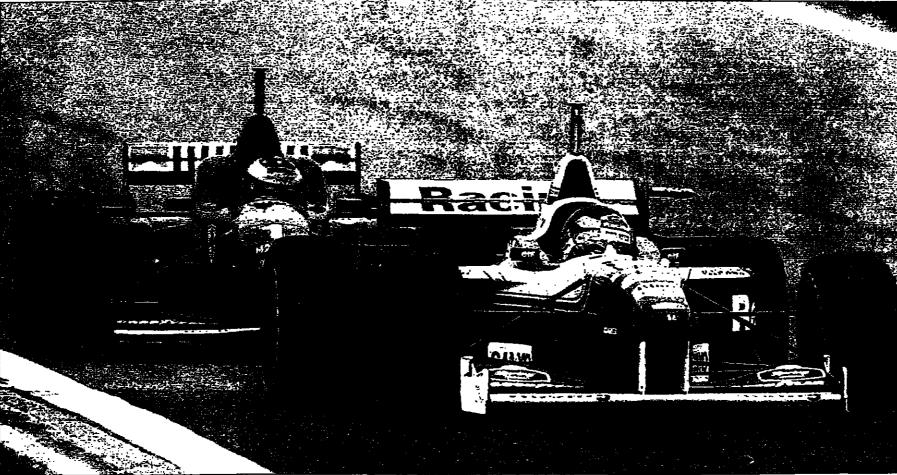
Results & Top 50 Teams: 0891 891 807

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at al other times. Rules are as previously published and are available on request.

The Dream Team in the south of France for manager with the highest the most exhilarating number of points at the experience of your life. end of the Grand Prix The school specialises in Championship season will **F1** courses and provides win our top prize - a drive all the racewear and in a 650bhp F1 car. instruction you will You will be flown to the need for a day driving F1 AGS team's training school and other single seat cars.



PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM



Photograph: Mike Hewitt/Allsport

The latest **scores** and **results**

acques Villeneuve won the 29, taking his dream team total to European Grand Prix in magnificent style, holding off Michael Schumacher despite a recalcitrant gearbox to take his first grand prix victory in fine style. But Dream Team rewards drivers for their performance over the entire grand prix weekend, so when the scores were totted up, Villeneuve's total of 26 (including five points for Driver of the Day) was eclipsed by

Damon Hill did not drive a good race on Sunday, as he would be the first to admit. He fluffed the start, made a 20-second precautionary pit-stop for an imaginary puncture, and then clobbered the mobile chicane known as Pedro Diniz. Yet he set fastest lap in his pursuit of David Coulthard, and that, together with his utterly dominant performance in qualifying and the warm-up gave him a total score of an awesome 114. It may be early days yet, but it is hard to see a Dream Team without Hill on board topping the table at the end of the season.

Michael Schumacher on Jacques Villeneuve's tail at the Nurburgring on Sunday

The aforementioned Coulthard had endured a miserable season before the Nurburgring, but pulled out all the stops to impress the Mercedes big-wigs on their home territory. He made a rocket-like the much faster Hill to secure an important podium position.

The much-hyped Heinz-Harald Frentzen, tipped by insiders for a Williams drive next season, once again performed poorly in his native land. He may be quick, but he has got to find the knack of finishing races. His team-mate Johnny Herbert, outshone by Schumacher at Benetton last year, is starting to match Frentzen's per-

WIN a drive in a

Grand Prix car

DRIVER OF THE DAY: Jacques Villeneuve

strong performers in the bargain

basement were Diniz's fellow

Brazilian Ricardo Rosset, and Mi-

nardi's £2m-rated Giancarlo

As Michael Schumacher sliced great chunks off Jacques Villeneuve's lead in the closing stages of the Grand Prix of Europe, the German's fans assumed that it was only a matter of time before their man took first place from the upstart Canadian. Schumacher, as Jean Alesi found last the Nurburgring.

But Villeneuve is no pushover. His back-

formances, and the German's

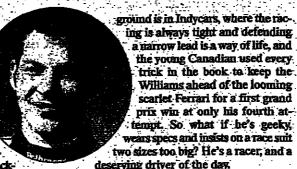
Pedro Diniz drove in his usual

slow, blinkered manner but once

again got his Ligier to the finish,

albeit having bounced off Damon

credibility may suffer.



prix win at only his fourth attempt. So what if he's geeky two sizes too big? He's a racer, and a deserving driver of the day. fairs were the Forti drivers, who up the Dream Team points, and remains a good cheap pick. Other were unable to lug their ungainly

come accustomed. Fisichella. Right at the back of af-Hill en route. He continues to rack Dream Teams

Nineteen teams gre in joint 1st postition with 192 points and thirtyone teams are in joint 20th position with 187 points.

- Fru-Fru People 6 Schuey's Shadow
- I Fox's Flyers
- 1 Team Mac
- The Aky Spondies
- 1 F Juan
- Racing
- ADS Grand Prix
- Doole's Dealings
- 1 Le-Sport

- 1 Spore Heity
- Curtis Cruisers
- Ocean
- 1 Ice
- I FI Olly
- 1 Points Make Prizes

- Settles Follies Damon's Demons
- 1 Tucker's Try Hard 1 Amazing F1
- **Engineering Limited**
- 20 Bighill Racing

20 Mark 1

- 20 The Spoilers
- 20 Karvey Team
- Racing 20 BJ Werbangers
- Racing Team
- 20 Goody Gumdrops
- 20 The Williton
- Afterburners 20 Herbert Grand Prix
- Team 1
- 20 Louie's Fan Club 20 Chapman's
- Chargers 20 Tyrrell's Tyrants
- 20 Prolapse Racing
- 20 Morgan's Team
- 20 Come On Dad 20 PJW Racing

20 Allegro Racers

packed up on Saturday night - a

process to which they may well be-

- 20 Eagles
- 20 Nick's Nitros
- 20 Mark's Merry Men
- 20 Visa F1
- 20 The Tarmac Eaters 20 Slipstream
- 20 Hill's Angels
- 20 Peter's Perfect First
- 20 Formula Feel Good
- 20 Hipala Racing Team
- 20 Blue Healers
- **20** Driving Force
- Racing
- 20 Riley's Radicals 20 Apricom Fun
- House
- 20 No More Excuses Grand Prix



birth certificates and passports." | missioning 1KA weapons.

POINTS SCORED DRIVERS 1 M Schumache

Grand Prix

Shopping

List

2 J Alesi 3 D Hill £20m 4 G Berge 5 D Coulthard 6 E Irvine 7 J. Villeneuve £13m 8 M Hakkinen 9 H H Frentzen £10m

10 M Brundle 11 R Barrichello 12 J Herbert 13 M Salo 14 P Lamy

12

15 P Diniz 16 U Katayama 17 J Verstappen 18 0 Panis £3m

19 L Badoer 20 R Rosset 21 A Montermini

22 G Fisichella 23 V Sospiri 24 T Marques 25 F Lagorce 26 H Noda

27 T Inoue . . £1m 28 M Blundell 29 J-C Boullion 30 K Brack

31 K Burt 32 E Collard 33 N Fontana 34 D Franchitti 35 N Larini 36 J Magnussen

devices to within 107% of Damon 37 A Prost Hill's pole position time and 38 G Tarquini 39 K Wendlinger

£20m	
40 Benetton	6
41 Williams	6 20 ∷
£18m	
42 Ferrari	12:
£15m ·	
43 McLaren	14.
£14m	
44 Sauber	11 1 Acc
	13
45 Jordan £10m	1.5
46 Ligier	-3
£6m	
47 Tyrrell	0
£5m	- T _a , ***
48 Arrows	-2
£3m	·

ENGINES

58 Hart

59 Ford Zetec V8

60 Ford ED V8

JOIN OVER 23,000 READERS WHO ARE PLAYING FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM

See Thursday's and Friday's paper on how to register for the San Marino Grand Prix on 5 May

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CHASSIS

50 Forti

49 Minardi

£26m 51 Renault £18m 52 Feman 53 Mercede £12m 54 Peugeo £10m 55 Mugen 56 Ford V10 57 Yamaha

Trigger cocked for reprisal

GREG WOOD

Punters like Double Trigger, and they like his trainer, too. Mark Johnston is in the very

simple business of saddling winners, sackloads of them, and backers who have followed his Middleham yard in recent seasons are among the few who may actually look forward to their monthly bank statement.

prolific success which appeals. but also the fact that, as belits a resident of North Yorkshire, he is not given to talking in its and buts. Between them, he and Double Trigger, winner of the stayers' Triple Crown last season, make a formidable team, so the trainer's comments prior to his horse's seasonal debut at Ascot this afternoon will be taken to heart by any backer with an ounce of sense.

2.30 Tawaaded

SIS

3.05 Sanmartino (nb)

3.40 MASTER CHARTER (nap)

Despite a series of victories nearest rival. The defeats in the year. He knows the horse well last year which commenced in Prix du Cadran and Melbourne and he'll do for me," Joe today's race, the Sagaro Stakes, the international handicappers saw fit to place Double Trigger behind Strategic Choice in their end-of-term report. This was little short of a travesty in many eyes, not least Johnston's, and Double Trigger's 1996 campaign will be aimed at promoting him to the top of the pile.

The Ascot Gold Cup winner ncir monthly bank statement.

Nor is it simply Johnston's gives at least 4lb to several useful rivals, including Sanmartino, winner of the Ebor as a threeyear-old last season and apparently improving all the time. None the less, his trainer gave few signs of nerves yesterday.

"Double Trigger will be under a lot of pressure tomorrow in a situation where nothing but a win will do," Johnston said, "but even with his penalty and allowing for the fact that the handicappers under-rate him, he still comes out 71b clear of his

4.10 Kingsinger

__X HEb 2

____N) 10c

4.40 Tarawa

HYPERION

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course — stands' side; Old Mile & round course — inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course with testing uphili firish.

1 Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Station adjoins the crurse. ADMISSIA Members 512 (Junior Members aged 16-25 years, half price); Grandstand and Padi 58; Salver Ring 55. CAR PARE: Parking areas number's 1, 2 & 3 £4, remainder fre

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: J Dunlop - 24 winners from 114 runners gives a success ratio of 21.1% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £44.66; R Hammu - 18 winners, 202 runners, 8.4%, £43.99; J Goeden - 17 winners, 117 runners, 14.5%, £37.10; M Stoute - 16 winners, 145 runners, 11.5%, £40.02.

LEADING JOCKETS: Pat Eddery - 32 wins, 210 rides, 15.2%, +\$10.80; W Carson - 30 wins, 213 rides, 14.8%, -\$32.35; L Dettori - 27 wins, 213 rides, 12.7%, +\$8.96; M Roberts - 23 wins, 188 rides, 12.2%, -\$7.96.

BLINKERED FIRST TURE: Wild Palm (5.15).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Angus-G (5.15) has been sent 257 miles Mrs M Beveley from

2.30 INSULPAK CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £13,000 added 3YO fillies 1m (Round)

- 6 declared -BETTENG: 7-4 Distant Casis, 4-1 Really & Dream, 9-2 Taysanded, 5-1 More Thum You Know, 6-1 Satin - 6 de

3.05 RNSULPAK SAGARO STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) Exercise £40,000 added 2m 45yds

Assessor and Salvey in Numbers can only it oversight rain
BETTIMO: 5-2 Double Trigger, 7-2 Sanmartino, 4-1 Abrigs Abod, 6-1 Naneseur, 7-1 Grey Shot, Julia-by Askiter, 10-1 Salvety in Numbers, 12-1 Dassyden, 14-1 Old Rousel
1995: Double Trigger 4 8 12 J Wesser 9-2 (Al Abriston) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

ble Trigger attempts to start the new campaign off with a repeat win in the race, but

Double Trigger attempts to start the new competign off with a repeat win in the race, but he will need to be close to his best if he is to dely a Group One penalty. He should make his usual bold showing, but the run is likely to be needed and defect would not be a mejor setback. Lost year's Ebor Handidap winner SANMARTINO carries no penalty in this Group Three event and that, combined with the benefit of a previous run, can prove a big advantage. Barry Hills's cott looked better then ever on his return at Newmartes, where he easily accounted for three opponents despite the burden of 10st. The step up to two miles will be very much in his favour. Grey Shot hed Sanmertino some seven and a helifeingths behind when making all in a Group Three at Longchamp (1mT) in the auturn. He is 3b worse off, however, and making his reappearance. Assessor will not run unless the ground easily to the wall have benefited from his Nettingham naturn when numer-up to vestimal Further Fight, Looy Herries has given the same provise about Safety. In Numbers' porticipation. The se-year-old won the race two years ago but it would be a great performance to win this after a season of. Danydan, stablemate to Safety in Numbers, ran well over 12 furlongs at Doncaster to be second to Juyush and could do well in staying races over 12 furlongs at Doncaster to be second to Juyush and could do well in staying races over 12 furlongs at Doncaster to be second to Juyush and could do well in staying races over 12 furlongs at Doncaster to be second to Juyush and could do well in staying races over 12 furlongs at Doncaster to be second to Juyush and could do well in staying races over 12 furlongs at Doncaster to be second to Juyush and could do well in staying races.

1111-10- DOUBLE TROSEER (176) (CD) (R W Hugging M Johnston 5 9 5
5:251-2 ASSESSING (D) (P) Saltan M Robes) R Hunnon 7 9 1.

100532- ALVAN'S ALCOF (USA) (238) (D) (S Hanson) M Saute 5 8 12
261211- GREY SHOT (214) (/ C Smith (Busting 4 8 12
534132- OLD ROUVEL (USA) (25) (D) (diss R D Couriel) D Marriny Smith 5 8 12
05-43132- SAFETY IN NUMBERS (578) (CD) (Mas Shika Cohen) Lidy Hernes 6 8 12
30421-2 DARRYDAM (29) (D) (P) D Smith Ledy Herites 4 8 0
411040- JELLARY ASSERE (179) (Smith Essi Ibn Mubeski R Methods 4 8 9
21514-1 SAMMARTINO (16) (K Abdulle) B Hills 4 8 9
2 Sections 1

1-2 MISS RIVIERA (19) (8F) (J L C Pearce) G Wage 9.0 _____ 12 MORE THAN YOU KNOW (193) (Bob Laterment) R Hannon 9.0 _

O-1 TAMAADED (1.4) Characton Al Mistocomi P Waleyn 9 0. 42 REALLY A DREAM (1.4) (Peter R Prachard) M Stoute 8 11. DISTANT QASIS (USA) AFRI Prince Find Salmen) H Cecil 8 8.

1 SATIN BELL (12) (Nicholas Jones) J Dunlop 9 0_

1995: A La Carte 3 8 8 J Red 10-1 (J Dunlop) 10 cars

Cup which took some of the Naughton, her trainer, said yesstime of his 1995 season now terday. "He is a very good jockseem to have been fogotten. "He ey who doesn't get the breaks is absolutely fine now and if any thing he has shown in his work that he is better than ever."

The familiar figure of Jason

Weaver will partner Double Trigger today, but Weaver's commitment to Johnston will force him to abandon his partnership with another popular runger, the sprinter Hever Golf Rose, when she reappears at Newmarket on Saturday. Weaver must ride Johnston's Double Quick in the Palace House Stakes, but he will need to live up to his name to cope with Hever Golf Rose, who won eight races last term including the Prix de l'Abbaye at Long-

The ride now passes to Paul Eddery, who won on Hever

he deserves. Hever Golf Rose is very well though obviously she will improve for the run and it will not be a walk in the park on Saturday. I have not had a winner on the turf yet, but my horses normally find their form from May onwards."

The Palace House should provide a worthy support act to Saturday's main event at Newmarket, the 2,000 Guineas. Watering, which draws on the track's own bore-hole and reservoir, continued yesterday, and the going remains good, while

away from the course punters were interested in Mark Of Esteem, Godolphin's contender for the first Classic. Ladbrokes, who opened up at 10-1 yesterday morning, were down to 6-Golf Rose in Germany last 1 by mid-afternoon.

FORM GUIDE

A high draw has been an advantage in this race in recent years, but PRINCE BABAR can win from stall rine. The Faury King cots, to be ridden by Pas Eddeny, had vary smart form as a pueralle when trained by Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, being placed behind First Trump in the July States at Neumarket and Mister Balleys in the Viritings States at Goodwood and then winning the valuable Plaget D'or from 17 mals over the straight, seven futnongs at Desuville. Prince Babar rac only truce in 1994 and released all last season, but a recent run at Warwick, his first for Jack Banks, saw Prince Beber finish an encouraging shirt to Welton Arewack, his first for Jack Banks, saw Prince Beber finish an encouraging shirt to Welton Arewack, his first tor Jack Banks, saw Prince Beber finish an encouraging shirt to Welton Arewack and Porteshact this season. He came from a long way off the pace to van seasy what he looked a hot handlorp lest time and he will be doing all his best work at the death again, Even with a 6th persity, he is well handloapped, Charffe Silbet, who failed to get into the Lincoln, is a likely sort for this. He looks wall handloapped just 6th higher than when well handlo and held? Quietons Declares is on a decent mark judged on his best form of last year and the switch to Reg Alecturat will not put off any potential backers. Revoke Misteral, many-up in the Lincoln and third to Turawa at Newmerlea, should not be far away again but just has enough weight. Delta Solell, fifth in the Lincoln, should do better if the yound does not get too testing, while Emerging Market can be familed on his fourth to Turawa, atthough it is interesting that Eddery appears to prefer Prince Baber, Lightly-raced Saasswer goes well fresh and has Franks Developed from Gymarak Peremitere. The form of Yeast's Newcestle maken with every chance.

Selection: PRINCE BABAR

4.10 SARTER CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £10,500 added 1 BLUDO (27) (D) (John Markel) 6 Leves 9 1.
12 NANGSENGER (27) (D) (BF) (Aleggin Ltd) M Channon 9 1.
13 POLLY FOOT FREED (23) (D) (Darek Dymond) 8 Millman 8 11.
BATTLE GROUND (F A Forman) N Callaghan 8 8.
MANISTE GROUND (F A Forman) N Callaghan 8 8.
MANISTE GROUND (F A Forman) N Callaghan 8 8.
16 ENCHAMINE EVE (12) (D) (Meanish MacGillace) C Allen 8 6.
16 ENCHAMINE EVE (12) (D) (Meanish MacGillace) C Allen 8 6.
16 ENCHAMINE EVE (12) (T) (Meanish MacGillace) C Allen 8 6.
17 Geolared -

BETTING: 6-4 Billio, 5-2 Kingsinger, 5-1 Buttle Ground, Smokey Pete, 12-1 Folly Foot Fred, 14-1 Enchanting Sec. 25-1 Manger 1996: Unconditional Love 2.8.6 D Holland 5-1 (M Johnston) 7 ran

1996: Incontinues Love 2 8 6 D Holand 5-1 (M Johnston) 7 ren
FORM GUIDE
Two-year-old Peilham won easily for Richard Hennon at Bath yesterdey and the stable can
be on the mark again with SMOKIEY PETE, reported to be the best juvenile in the yard at
this early stage. Batho went off odds on on his debut and only had to be pushed out to get
the better of insh Fiction, but that runner-up has done little for the form with two defiests
since. Hannon will know where he stands with Kingsinger, who had Smokey Pete's stablemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind when they were second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind the second and they behaviour just behind the second and third to lective-Da at Lingblemste Salky Behaviour just behind the se

PORTIM GLIDE

DISTANT CASES is reported to have been pleasing Henry Ceoli and this well-bred Green Desert fifty can make the most of the weight she receives from the other numers. This is a good test for Distant Cases, with four winners and Reality A Dream, numer-up to Tavadeed at Newmarket, in opposition. Really A Dream was numering on well at the death against 33-1 chance Tavadeed and, while both should come on for the nun, Michigael Stoutes is numer should have the edge in receipt of 3to. Satin Bell won the unasced filter race at Newbury in good style last month and the time suggests it was a decent effort. Miles Rivierar's Doncaster win test backend was promising, but she was besten at odds on by Simply Kette in a three-numer race over 10 furlorigs at Beverley on her return. The drop in distance may heb. More Tham You Know sprang a surprise when winning at Selection: Distance may year. Her subsequent defeast at the hands of Henry The Fifth at Newbury probably exposed her illmitations, however. 4.40 CHOBHAM CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added 1m (Round)

> Desert, 10-1 Behaviour, 20-1 temperas. 1995; Calling Colect 6 8 12 Pet Eddery 3-1 6. Carmen) 3 RM FORM GUIDE
>
> TARAWA continued his improvement when making a winning return in a hot seven-futiong retad stakes at Newmarket, beating Monasasib a short head, with Blomberg (Bib better off four and a haif lengths back in titth. A mile is much more Tarawa's trip and he can some again. Williams, well beatin beating Lucky Di in Kampton's Megopole Stakes, had done nucleaters over this trip at Donogate when numer-up to First Island on his return. He was able to lead then and should be suited by the drop in distance. Grand Dar Lac ran just twice lest year, winning at Sandown in July. He is best watched today given the general form of Devid Loder's numers. Beatwicer ran poorly on his Kempton return, while the trip is too short for looks, Green Green Desert is worth a second look, though. He is faint-hearted, but a move to Lady Herries might just have improved his attitude.
>
> Selection: TARAWA

5.15 WHITE ROSE STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m (Straight)

	his usual bold showing, but the run is likely to be needed and defeat would not be a ma-	1	210120-	260-ADDAB (196) (CD) (S.J. Hammond) A Stawart 6 10 0
		5	2336-172	NOBLE SPRENTER (8) (Pracriates) R Henrich 4 10 0 Reld 15 B
		2	502050	PAY HOMAGE (186) (0) SAgs A V (80) Boking 8 9 13
		7	000,010	Miller 7
		- 2	E30400	MORDONEX (60) (D) (R J Arcsilli R Arristong 4 9 12 M Hills 7 SAMEN SHARPLY (8) (D) (Mes V R Junes) A High 5 9 11 W Whoels 22
i		2	22000	LYNTON LAD (18) Alpiands Bloodstad C Brooks 4 9 9
1	be very much in his lawour, early state at Longchamp (1m7f) in the suttern. He is 350 worse hand when making all in a Group Three at Longchamp (1m7f) in the suttern. He is 350 worse	-	0023-20	COUNTRY LOVER (40) (D) (Sr Gordon Brunon) Lord Humington 5 9 SAlimen Cook (7) 5 Y
- 1	hand when making all in a Group Times at Congarante will not the unless the drawn one.		D-3003D	CONTROL TRACK AND IN the CONTROL CONTROL WITH LINES BOTH 3-3-3-2-2-4-4
	off, however, and making his reappearance. Assesser will not run unless the ground ess-	8	62/1-	FAURI (USA) (354) (Hamour Al Mariopuri) A Sevent 4 9 9W Comen 4
		9	12-5404	NEAMEST (USA) (19) (29) (Paul Georg) N Walter 4 9 9
		10	35050-0	CAPTABLES DAY (18) BY R Northy T MES 499TWEETER 17
1		11	10000-0	SAIFAM (S) (D) (Ms L Brook) D Monte 7 9 8
1		12	510302-	ADMINALS FLAME (2022) (D) (Hindestern Racing) C Wall 5 9 7
Î		13	22320	BALASARA (175) (Whitesombe Micror Racing Stating) R O'Scilings 6 9 7 R Hughes 12 B
	over 12 furlongs at Doncasser to be second to Joyum and Alexys Alexif who, sithis year. Old Rouwel is held by several of today's mels, including Alexys Alexifors SANIMARTIND	14	026200-	DEEME (220) (CD) (D'Iumer) C Bensims 7 9 5 Pichimon 23 ULAAL (ISA) (ZD) (Alegan Dennis-Cong Shields) M Hammond 4 9 4 W Ryen 11
	this year. Old Rouvel is held by several or today's meet, management Selection: SANMARTINO though Group-placed in France, needs to improve. Selection: SANMARTINO	15	36340-3	TELAN (JSA) (21) (Megan Dennis-Card Shields) M Hammond 4 9 4
	Allonia Caprit- horses at Liganos	16	CHEATIC	ROCKVELE PRIE (1) HISTOR NESO S DOM 4 9 4
		17	453060-	TRESARION (USA) (229) (D Hefin Jones) R Aleburg 593
	3.40 INSULPAK VICTORIA CUP (HANDICAP) (CLASS 8)	18	2.15111	OCEAN PARK (27) IDI & Recell Leck Herres 5 9 3
	3.40 £30,000 added 7f	14	45-5	ANGUE-E (2D N/ Green Mrs. M Reader 493 K Darley 26
	±30,000 added 11	~	194000	ANGUS-5 (21) (V Grael) Mas M Revolvy 4 9 3
	1 21100-0 MNAAL (11) (CD) (T 6 Fox) Lady Hernes 6 10 0 Red 10 A Clark 1	21	4616.FD	WALL DAY IN THE TAX IS SHOUND WITH THE TAX IS
i	1 21100-0 JAWAML (11) (2D) (T 6 For) Lady Hernes 6 10 0. A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 13 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (D) (J R Rothmont-Watson) (G Harmond 7 9 10 A Clinck 1 2 0000-00 HAYWEE (14) (C) (G HAYWEE (14) (C) (22	000000	DE INDIA (A) THE PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH
1	2 0000-00 (AANVEE (14) (C) (D) (I R Robindrichests) (C Connection 4 9 10	_	49000	EMER SO LIMICAL (4) (D) (The Fandley Puntos) P Harrs 6 9 D
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	4 4020-23 ROVING MINSTREL (14) (Ms.) MICHARD II B ACCEPTION II P Home 4 9 6 E Heat 21. 5 6/1043-5 DELTA SOLEN (USA) (35) (Minstern Connection II P Home 4 9 6 K Darley 23	. 24	ACMED D	WENTHERDEE LID 49 (0) 10th Pigt Plans 6 8 1.1 Sandas 8 V
	5 6/1043-5 DELTA SOLEIL (USA) (39) (American Carmaccion III punto 4.9 6. K. Darley 13 6 63452-4 EMERICAN MARKET (1.4) (Philip Wroughton) J Durlop 4.9 6. K. Darley 13 14 14 15 17 18 17 18 17	20	- EV2430	ermon until hors on the 114 short Diffusion A 9.9 Prochange 3
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	7 113310 WALD RICE (221) (b) (Lady Opperhament is Wagg up in thines 8 9 5 M.) Names 11. 8 361053- GYBACRAK PREMIERE (215) (7) (b) (Symonic Record of Holmes 8 9 5 M.) Names 7	21	000-511	HALLIARD (19) (The Rest Hill Persussian) T Jones 5 8 1
	B 361053- CYMCRAK PRESENCE (213) TO THE REPORT OF THE REPORT 7	A	U4U-03U	HATTINGO (13) (IIII NOSCI TO PORTUS III) I ANIES S S LIIII
_	9 622150. RODERCK NUCSON (218) (D) 4004 0 14115 mm (5) 0 S Drome (3) 16	2	20000	MARPHY'S GOLD (12) (D) (D A Reed) R Fatey 5 7 13 Quien 18 TODAL BACH (14) (D) (Ms A V Cappucsin) R Ingram 4 7 12 M Saind (5) 10 B
- 1	10 4212-00 ALREET (21) (The German Particulary 7 Thronton 5 0 41 Prof 5 0 41	30	304200	CURAN REEF (188) OK L West) W Museum 4 7 10
	14 ONLINE DOMN'S BARRIN (23) III WES IT FINANCIA CONTINUES TO SECOND 27		. 030034	SKITINDO (1/1) (D) Pits Sandy Headan Pet Mischel 5 7 10Declar O'Shee 32
	17 COSTON, CHARLE SELET (180) (D) John Shell 6 HE 4 5 II	32	00004-0	= 35 declared =
	13 SO COOK SETTION SIN DO ICE British C British 6 8 9			
1	14 CO2 1 VELST (NG) (R Hacras) W Hacras 489	14		ga 7st 10th. True handicep integrals: Cuben Reaf & Saltando 7st 9th.
	Services Canada (120 ft) Skrasin Ltd Mes Gay Kellensy 4.8		11045 P.	Grant Park, 10-1 Robie Sprinter, Growing Jade, Titani, 12-1 Autumn Cover, Felch,
	13 ASSESSED STREET OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP	14	-1 Balesax	a, Cutaur Reef, No-Addate, Mordiner, Salizer, Samba Shurply, 16-1 others
•	12 G3SGG1- CHARLE SILETT (189) (D) Lionn SBetti B HBs 4 8 11 M (Remy S) 28 23 50-0003 ERTION (6) (D) CE Bitton (C Bitton 6 8 9 R Codense 15 14 632-1 YEAST (36) (B Heggs4 B Heggs4 B 9 R Codense 15 254461- SAMMAN (134) (D) (Mangain Ltd) Mas Gay Mellemay 4 8 7 L Delton 12 15 254461- SAMMAN (134) (D) (Mangain Ltd) Mas Gay Mellemay 4 8 7 Peud Ebdony 22 B 16 (00214-0 BE WARNED) (27) (D) (Malcourts) N Callegian 5 8 4 Peud Ebdony 22 B A Dayl (5) 4 S (48) 5 Don 4 8 4 A Dayl (5) 4 C Dayl (5) 4 Peud Ebdony 23 B A Dayl (5) 4 S (48) 5 Don 4 8 4 A Dayl (5) 4 C Dayl (5) 4	15	95: Desve	a 6 9 3 P Robinson 20-1 (C.) Benstewel 25 ran
-				FORM GLIDE
à	18 2021-20 BHSTER FIRE DIES (40) (0) (8F) & 7 (Oley C British 4 8 4 T Quien 5 19 215300 SHARP REBUFF (167) (0) (0) M Aries) P Maint 5 8 4 T Quien 5 19 215300 SHARP REBUFF (167) (0) (0) M Aries) P Maint 5 8 4 S S Sonders 5 10 (167) (16	₩	enterd	GE LAD is in great heart and, other running Rembo Waltzer (winner since) to a
	19 215300 SHARP REBUT (167) (D) (D M Anter) P Mater 5 8 4. 20 435040 QUENTUS DECISIAIS (195) (D) (Perlyne Properties Ltd) R Aterbust 4 8 3 S Sanctions 5 435040 QUENTUS DECISIAIS (195) (D) (Perlyne Properties Ltd) R Aterbust 4 8 3 S Sanctions 5 4.	he	ed at This	sk, he was fourth to Mester Charter at Portlefract, a good effort considering he
		di	i not get t	the best of runs. He remains well handcapped, Murphy's Gold was stain in the
	21 15290. SAFT ANA REAL (207 P) PP	Th	irsk race a	and he books as though he should win before long. Angus-G has caught the eye
		in	each of h	is three runs to date and is Blody to be a warm order now that he is in a hand-
	22 GOLG-11 MASTER CHARTER (8) (D) Librarian Remedian McJ Harris 14 Julian 24 23 234032 MINISTEVER'S RIGHT (147) (D) MS C Thurgood) M Usher 7 7 12 Julian 24 24 6300-00 DAMMALIS (USA) (B) (D) (Lock Brown (Bookmolecs)) D Haydr Jones S 7 10 A Mackay 14 6300-00 DAMMALIS (USA) (B) (D) (Lock Brown (Bookmolecs)) D Haydr Jones S 7 10 A Mackay 14 6300-00 DAMMALIS (USA) (B) (D) (Lock Brown (Bookmolecs)) D Haydr Jones S 7 10 A Mackay 14 6300-00 DAMMALIS (USA) (B) (D) (Lock Brown (Bookmolecs)) D Haydr Jones S 7 10 A Mackay 14 6300-00 DAMMALIS (USA) (B) (D) (Lock Brown (Bookmolecs)) D Haydr Jones S 7 10 A Mackay 14 6300-00 DAMMALIS (USA) (B) (D) (Lock Brown (B)		ap. He has	only a pound put with Tillwal for the six lengths he finished behind him at Ripon
	OF THE ALL PROPERTY OF THE PRO	la	sturne bu	t is expected to come out on top. Ocean Park, going for his fifth win of the
				wall bandeproad combined to the sil-legiber 200 ills Leichtis (US is William)
	Albimust weight 7st 10tb. True heruiczy weight Desello 7st Stb. Albimust beight 7st 10tb. True heruiczy weight Desello 7st Stb. ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charle Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charle Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charler Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charles Shiett, Sassawer, 10-1 Quintus Decimus, Yeast, ECTING: 7-1 Delta Solali, Mester Charler, 8-1 Charler	Ín		there the change a make may find him ast. Decrease won this tirst time out last
	BETTING: 7-1 Date: Solell, Mexico Charter, 8-1 Charles Salett, Sammer, 10-1 Quantum Solell, Mexico Charter, 8-1 Charles Salett, Sammer, 10-1 Wild Rion, 20-1 Al Reed, 11-1 Januari, 18-1 Emerging Market, Prince Baher, 18-1 Reving Minatel, Wild Rion, 20-1 Al Reed, 11-4 Januari, 18-1 Charles General, Premiero, 28-1 cabers			and the College Pith water Affi with Tenditions a nack bening in 1911. Lifetimen
	Striken (-1, Deep Striken Market Prince Baber, 18-1 Roving Ministre, Visit Ave.	~	e mound t	n Bad Alean my and is the clear pick of the three at 1000/3 Weights. Pay remain
	12-1 Angel, 15-1 congress research Constant Premiero, 25-1 others	1 R	oirs the t	person on a depart mark. Selection: WENTERIDGE LAD

FROM TODAY THE RACING CHANNEL **OFFERS YOU MORE** LIVE RACING - NOW 11AM TO 7PM ON CHANNEL 53 FOR LESS THAN £5 PER WEEK

BCTREE 7-1 Dates Solad, Menter Charles, 8-1 Charles Shirth, Sammer, 10-1 Quintus Dooksun, Yanst, BCTREE 7-1 Dates Solad, Menter Charles, 9-1 Charles Shirth, Sammer, 10-1 Quintus Dooksun, Yanst, 11-1 Januari, 16-1 Errenging Marked, Prince Bahar, 18-1 Roving Minstrel, Wild Rica, 20-1 At Rest, 13-4 Januari, 16-1 Errenging Marked, Prince Bahar, 18-1 Roving Minstrel, Wild Rica, 20-1 At Rest, Nayvee, Marker Fire Eyes, 25-1 Bo Warned, Systemat, Providers, 26-1 others

1985: Javani 5 8 6 J Rest 7-1 (Lady Hymes) 25 ran



FOR IMMEDIATE SWITCH ON TEL: 0998 215 215 OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CABLE OPERATOR

30: TAWAADED, who sprang a 33-1 surprise when winning the usu-ally competitive Geoffrey Barling Maiden Stakes by a length at the Newmarket Craven meeting, is bred - by 1989 Derby winner Nashwan - to stay a mile and looks a potentially useful performer.

3.05: SANMARTINO, who won the Ebor Handicap last year, beat Unchanged by a comfortable 21/2 engths on his reappearance at wmarket. He might be too fit and, over this trip, too fast for the Gold Cup winner, Double Trigger. might be the main danger.



3.40: MASTER CHARTER, who made up at least 10 lengths in the two lengths at Pontefract over a mile last week, should be suited by this suff seven furlongs and looks well drawn. The lightly raced Yeast

Fitzgerald out for the season

Mick Fitzgerald, who won the Grand National a month ago on Rough Quest, is out for the rest of the jumping season after breaking his collar-bone while riding out for Nicky Henderson yesterday morning. Fitzgerald will be on the sidelines for at least three weeks, and missed

Richard Durwoody gave up his mounts at Ascot after feeling ill on Monday night with food poisoning. He expects to be fit to ride at Exeter today. David Harrison had his appeal against a two-day ban for careless riding at Nottingham last week dismissed by the Jockthree rides at Ascot last night. ey Club disciplinary committee.

SERENBUL . HYPERION 5.25 Mr Golightly 6.00 Double Silk 6.35 Sheer lest 7.10 Young Brave 7.45 Some Toy 8.20 Pag-

toral Pride

GOING: Good to Firm. estrings Good to Funt.

Elebhand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in.

Course is I m N of town off A435. Bus link from Chehenham station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddingson)

En. ADSISSION: Club & Tastersalls combined \$12 (majors, 16-24 years, \$8); Foster's Enclosure \$5. CAR PARK: Prec.

BLINESERD FORT TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE BURNESS: Prince Soloman (6.35) has been est, 147 miles by W G Turner from Lydford, Dep

5.25 KEYLINE BUILDERS MERCHANTS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 2m 5f 11-RI11 MR QOLIGHEY (13) (b) Mrs S Cobien 9 12 7 Mrs J Reed (7) 112-0F1 MY NOMINEE (13) O Nichols 8 12 7 _____ Mr A Gadillo (7) B 14-4F43 SYNDERBOROUGH L/IQ (11) (D) S File 10 12 7 _____

6.00 COLIN NASH MEMORIAL UNITED HUNTS CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 3m 1f 110yds

385556 RUSTY BROOKE (23) (0) Mg S Johnson 9 12 3Air R Thorston (7) SPRINGFELD LAD Mag I, Robbers 10 12 3 , Mars E Welling (7) Q' SPANFORD BOY (2,53:1) Ms N Shepperl 11 12 3 O STEAM SEROCCO (23) A Taylor 9 12 3 July D Drin 1 MISS MILLEROOK (5) D Gottsworthy 8 11 12 July M thy 8 11 12. Mr M Rimel (5) 11 1 MSS MILENOON (8) D tockwood of the American Company of the American Compa

6.35 LANDROVER MEN'S CHAMPION SHIP (HUNTER CHASE) (CLASS H) £6,000 3m 1f 110 yes

PLIMPTON

HYPERION 2.10 More Bills 2.45 Evangelica 3.20 Chieftain's

BILINEERED FIRST TRIES: Imala (2,10); Duke Of Lancaster (vi-sored) (2,45); Hyltens Channe (visored), Script (visored) (4,23). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUINNESS: Mixed Mood (4,50) has been sera 175 miles by B Liewellyn from Bargoed, Mid Gamorgan.

2.10 MAY CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 4f

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F DORT TOUCH [5] P Butler 5 11 4 T C Monthly [7]
23-PUSP WETOSIG [6] (20) R Ledger 8 11 2 Men N Ledger 8 20F336 JOLYS GREAT (20) M Ryan 8 11 1 J Ryan DOUGH-P RITHERS GRANDLE (20) Mes I, breef 8 11 0 R Deale V 122/ WINCON LOAD (1959) (CD) J Withou 12 11 0 D Gallagher SMALL WHID M Wildragen 10 10 11 J Lancaucce SMALL WHID M Wildragen 10 10 11 J Backsholer (7)

2.45 HAILSHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 11.0yds

APPESI. EMANESIJCA (15) M Ppo 6 11.3 _____ D Bri SSRPSP BLAYES WONDER (23) R Aher 6 11.2 ____ D Bri 0-60FPO Britonley House (46) I who 9 11.2 _____ LISTIGA DURE OF LANCASTER (11) Mas J Parena 7 11.2 _____

POSEPO WOODLANDS POWER (25) P Pricing 8 11.2...

0003 MORE BELS (25) A Moon 4 10 8 ___

4.50 Pedaltothemetal

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

- 10 declared - CETIME: 3-1 Postoral Pride, King's Treasure, 7-2 Hallace Tern, 5-2 Treasure, 7-2 Hallace Tern, 5-2 Treasure, 7-1 Michaele, 8-1 Knowing, 14-1 others 3.20 A R DENINIS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

A Lasmach (3)

4 250620 ROYAL CRICUS (181) (b) P Heat 7 10 1 _____ D Bridgents - 4 declared -Crown 3.50 Whippers Delight 4.20 Fabriana 4 declared -BETTINE: 7-4 Circus Colours, 2-1 Wild Strawberry, 5-2 Caleffain's Crown Left-band, uncluding course with sharp heads.

Left-band, uncluding course with sharp heads.

Course is off A275 S of Haywards Heath. Plumpton station as joins course. ADMINSTON: Members £12; Textentalls £8; Cours £4. (AE PARE: £4 (centre of course) & £1. 3.50 PRESTON PARK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f

425132- BUCKSTREW (957) R Seut 9 12 4.

42 COPPER THISTLE (22) (NF) Mrs M Sheroug 8 11 9...

= 13 decised -HETTING: 5-2 Shear Jest, 6-1 Copper Tritatio, 8-1 Welsh Lagion, Decisions, Ryming Capies, Strong Gold, 10-2 West Quay, 12-1 others

7.10 RANGE ROVER CHAMPION HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £6,000 3m 2f 110yls

1 276-178 (HOE AGAIN (11) (C 97) Mass C Sounders 13 12 6

7.45 CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 5f

1 3P-30 38980T BURNS (13) C Sweeting 11 12 0 Mr. R Sweeting (7) B

4 00/07/0 MACTS BOY (9159 J Micros 7 12 0 _______ Mir R Hicks (7)
4 00/07/0 MACTS BOY (9159 J Micros 7 12 0 _______ Mir J Judies (7)
56 P2-2224 MONN. RISSH (LIR) C Egysten 12 12 0 _____ Mir N Londs (7)
6 P2-2224 MONN. RISSH (LIR) C Egysten 12 12 0 _____ Mir P Hostory (5) B
7 7/20 SOMET-TOY (130) J Soure 10 12 0 _____ Mirsh L Microst (5)
8 P25PTP SOMET-RISSH (SAE (100) M P QPS 9 12 0 _____ Mir A Featon (5)
10 0PPP: BLANCE FRIESSE (1,210) Mac R Victory 9 11 9 _____ Mirsh S Victory (7)
11 SISSER LABK N Jones 7 11 9 ______ Mirsh S Victory (5)
12 3ROPR-U STORMY SURSET (46) Miss J Durate 9 11 9 ____ Mir D Desnis (7)
12 3ROPR-U STORMY SURSET (46) Miss J Durate 9 11 9 ____ Mir D Desnis (7)
12 deschared -

- 12 declared -BETTURE: 7-2 Minter Horatio, 5-1 Royal Islat, Stormy Sonnat, 6-1 Some Toy, Tangle Saron, 8-1 Fathers Footprints, Reight Suran, 12-1 others

8.20 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

ALIAN RUN WAN (20) (20) P Charange 10 12 10 _ Hir C Vigins (5) 433464 TRUST THE GITSY (25) (0) J Dulance 14 12 10

prop p RECTORY BOY (11) (CO) B Linux on 13 12 6.

1 057331 NALHAM TARN 657) H Marres 6 12 10-

CLORENCES LAD Mes 1, Bacebox 8 12 0 , Mr 8 Balons (7) PASSERS POORPRISS (35) Mrs C Hole 8 12 0

DETITALE swame Ryde Again, 9-4 Charden, 5-2 Young Drawn

4.20 COOKSBRIDGE NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 1 333630 SCRIPT (B) J Jeniers 5 11 10_ ___D Water (5) V BETTING: 6-4 Fabriana, 8-2 Verde Linna, 6-1 Scrint, Hvitara Caraca, Fa-

4.50 HOVE FILLIES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 1f 161316 TOMYS GET (5) (D) M Pipe 12 0...

HYPERION 2.20 Relative Chance 2.55 Slan Wyn 3.30 Celtic Laird 4.00 Halona 4.30 Super Factics 5.00 Tel-Ilcherry 5.30 Slingsby GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). Englishs-hand, undulating course, Stiff test of standina, Bun-in of

s. ourse is 5 miles south-west of Exeter on A38. Exeter (St vids) is on main London (Paddington) to Comwall zaliway line. MESSION: Grandstand & Paddock 59; Silver Ring 54.50 (ac-upanied under-16s free). CAR PARE: Free.

RUNKERED FIRST TIME: Acolian, Furnday, Feisty Bose, High Fost & Feter Monany (2.55), Jimmy's Fancy & Lemon's Mill (3.30); Alpine Starm (visored, 2.55) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Farnday (2.55) has been sent 203 miles by D McCain from Cholmondeley Castle, Chestine.

2.20 ROYAL MARINES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 2f COCCOO B MY LOWELY (11) C O'NAM 6 10 3. 9 AZSSFE CYPHANDYS PABLE (42) T GOOGS 5 10: 10 00-00P4 BLACK STAG (22) M WROSON 7 10 1... 11 //FPUD-0 PHICKA SANBE (35) 6 Boding 9 10 0 ... 12 OUPP22 PULLY IEACH (21) 8 R Molman 6 200. 13 0P-52 BLEMORA MISSE (22) Roddy Farel 6 1 ARD'S FABLE (42) T George 5 10 3... K STAG (22) M Wilesson 7 10 1....

052 ELEVNORA MUSE (22) Paddy Farrel 6 10 0. 465 LUNE WEREN (48) D Gandoth 6 10 0 - 14 decimed -Minimum meigic: 10st. True hundkup weigits: Publu Sanih, Poly Leath & Homo-na Marc Sat 13th, Luke Warm Sat 12b. BEXTIME: 9-2 Eleopom Micha, 6-1 Staleh Home, 8 My Lovely, 7-4 Poly Leach, 8-1 Kno's Promise, Logium Last, 10-1 Mr Poppieton, 12-1 others

2.55 PRST TIME BLYER NOVICE SELLING HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 2m 2f ____S Day 54-0830 High POST (20 C Harr 7 11 0 ... 10 006 1/ADY MUCKY DUCK, (2) G SERVING S 10.9 ____A P McCS9 11.4 40P05 LANGUSTER (5) Mea R Hexderson 4 10.9 ____B Selver (5) B 12 00P LEDOM LARK (25) R Beller 7 10.9 _____B Person 13 524-160 Sawi WYR (12) X Barke 6 10.9 _____ MA FREGION 14 02-50P SEETA TIME (25) R O'Sulfines 6 10.9 _____ Me P Months (25) S Selver 6 10.9 _____ Me P Months (25) 15 FP STONY MORSEE (21) S Norm 7 10.9 _____ Me P Months (25) 10 S Selver 7 10.9 _____ Me L Judicul 17 6P0203 WHAT'S TREE JUNE (25) J Tuck 7 10.9 _____ S Machine 18 6 Auryle STORM (22) M Uchir 4 10.4 _____ W Increased V _____ 18 doctored _____ - 18 doctored -BETTRICE 9-4 Conseel Strepton, 5-2 Poter Monnany, 11-4 Size Wys, 8-1 King of Babylós, 18-1 High Pest, 12-1 Lawbester, 20-1 others

3.30 PORTMAN FINANCIAL PLANNERS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 2m 7f 110yds PS-PG35 SUZZ O'THE CROWD (J.4) Mrs C Handal 9 11 3. Mr P Hardey PLIFOOS CHANCE DE LA VIE (LIE Miss C Hoder 7 11 3 ... T DeB Power

MINISPET J NEWS 9 10 12. - 44 (Marcon - 1821) | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 1846 | 4.00 ROYAL NAVY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 2f 4-03315 HOLDINGLOSE (25) R Frost 6 11 7.

53250 THE GREY FRAR (40) Mass H Hingit 7 11 0... 10 80/50 UNCLE ALBY (43) 897 Mass H Knght 7 11 0 F Titley
11 00-0PP4 GRESHACRES ROSE (20) G Ham 6 10 9 5 Berrough 8
12 36-0043 HALONA (14) S Christen 6 10 9 5 Leiby
13 C5 MANOR ROUND (23) Mrs S Williams 6 10 9 5 Leiby
14 10 berrick - 13 declared BETTING: 6-4 Heidinectors, 11-4 Halons, 5-1 Storm Point, 6-1 Filippance,
10-1 The Groy Print, 14-1 Harry The Horse, 16-1 others

4.30 PORTMAN INSTANT ACCESS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 3f

111505 MUSKOBA (11) P Hooks 7 11 10... 411-42 PONTANISMEN (28) D Burchell 8 11 10 ____ D J Brothell V 10212P BEAU RABLEAND (58) P Nichols 9 11 8 ___ AP Nicholy B 241323 SUMPER NICHOS (30) R Alore 8 11 8 ___ AP P Nicholy B 241323 SUMPER NICHOS (30) R Alore 8 11 8 ___ AP P Nicholy (5) 234810 NIR ENTERCOUNER (187) (CC) N Genetics 13 11 3 ___ 313432 REVE BY ROSE (11) (D) M Molenn 10 11 1 1/231U-6 SYDNEY BARRY (21) (CD) R Buckier 11 11 0 _____ B Powel

5.00 PORTMAN FIXED RATE MORTGAGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1P3U3R MCREON FLINT (82) T Thomson Mosts 8 11 10 ___C Mande 0-35343 TELLICHERRY (14) Max H Kright 7 11 10 ___Rh J Callety (3) 1-00003 SARAMI RIVER (21) (CD) Mrs J Retter 12 11 10 ____ 2243-00 BEAM NE UP SCOTTY (21) (C) N Hands 7 11 B. 24/27-5 SPORT OF FOOLS (28) W Reed 7 11.7 A P Nec 9 4140P1 STUPLEFORD LADY (23) (C) (D) J S Moore 8 11 0 ... 070631 SHEEP STEALER (21) (C) R Presset, 8 10 12.Chris Webb (\$ F004-45 ENDFAME (44) | King 5 10 11 11 U-490P5 WRECKESS NUM (42) J OH 9 10 10. 12 020025 MUSTARE (21) (C) R Hodges 7 13 40-5303 RAMALLAH (23) J Vines 7 10 1 MBE (21) (C) R Hodges 7 10 9____T Descombe (3) B 14 65P-PPO RONANIS BLEN (74) M WEBSTON 9 10 0.... والوبيطل 6__

- 15 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handlap weight: Ronons Gen 9st 13th, Mass Social Set 10th, Cheer Battern Set 4th. PÉTEME: 9-2 Hundy Lacs, 5-1 Tollicherry, Shoop Stealor, 8-1 Remailais, Sabald River, Sport of Fonds, Steplehard Lady, 12-1 others

4-14600 MISS SOUTER (49) H Home 7 10 0.

5.30 ROYAL NAVY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 2f 203154 LORD MEMBERSONERS (14) J Node: 6 11 7 1-25021 SUNGSEY (23) Men H Kolger, 8 11 7 (DPPL) FREET (2ASS (20) 6 Albert 6 11 0 علوار £ لــ MANUFASE G Harvador 5 11 () (CINUSE) 1006 (22) A Carel 6 11 O.... 1088 (47) S Metor 5 11, 0 .. 09-2400 SANOS PORIT (21) C Poptiern 6 11 0. COLD COME ON PERRY (21) D Gendo URN (41) R Ather 5 10 9 O SKYLANK SOME (21) Mass H King's 5 10 9 ... Mr J Callety (3)

— 12 declared — SETTING: 3-1 Lord McMarrough, 7-2 Come On Patry, 4-1 Stingsby, Necol Gen., 6-1 immesso, Stylark Song, 20-1 others

2.00; 1. LEAR JET (7 Quant) 6-1, 2. Private Song 4-1; 3. Muniputo 12-1, 15 mm. 4-5 fav (esmagermoment (5m), 5m+ds, shr-ds, 10 Colo, Whatcombel, Tools (5.56); 21.70, 21.70, 12.80. Dual Fowcast £10.70. Computer Straight Forecast £30.04. The: £43.50.

143.50. 1. SONGSNIET I/ Red) 7-4 for; 2. 130: 1. SONGSNIET I/ Red) 7-4 for; 2. 180: the trian Revisit 4-1; 3. Silver Harrow 11-1. 18 res. 3. hd. IR Coest, Newmarker), Total (3.50: £2.20. £1.90, £4.70. DF; £8.00. CSF: £1.00. 2. 190: £1.00. \$1.00: 1. ANSELLMAN I/ Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 3. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 3. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 3. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 3. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 3. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 5. D. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 5. D. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 5. D. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Carolli 20-1; 2. Jacob 8-1; 5. D. Primodly Barws 16-1: 4. Jacob 8-1; 5. Jac £1.50. DF: £62.00. CSF: £167.14. Threst: £2.444.68. Tho: £518.60. NR: Awarshe. 3.30: £. Meer's Meanourr (N Varies) 40: £. Trojan Riek 5-1; 3. Aready 14-1. 24 ran. 7-2 fav Cheerlul Aspact. (£41). Hd. ¼. (John Berry, Newmarket). Totat: £63.20: £9.90. £2.30. £3.40. DF: £531.70. CSF: £559.00. Incast: £3,94.94. Into: £338.50. 4.00: £. CAPE MERRINO (B Thorsom 8-1; 2. Wardan 17-2: 3. Warning Star 7-2. 8 ran. 3-1 far That Mon Agan (4M). 37-3, ½. (D Chappell, Blewburg). Tetat: £9.10: £1.70. £2.10. £1.20. DF: £30.40. CSF: £64.17. The: £173.20. NR: Warning Time.

1273.20. NR: Warring Time.
4.30; 1. PELHAM (Dane O'Neil) 9-4; 2. Delmeny Decoer 9-1; 3. Net Mick 9-1, 8 res. 2-1 fav Fredrik The Fierce (4th). 4, 1/2. R. Hamon, East Everleight. Total: (3.90; 11.40, £2.60, £2.00, DF: £20.90, CSF:

21.82, 52.60, 52.60. br. 120.50. csr. (21.82, 8.00: 1. PARADISE WATERS U Redi 9-2; 2. Soviet Bride 5-2 for, 3. Bronze Maquette 33-1. 13 ren. 1/2, hd. (R Johnson Houghton, Delcot). Tete: £4.40; £1.50, £13.70. DF: £10.20. CSF: £16.93 Tagast: £324.21. Tag: £489.00. Non Runner: £slumo Nel.

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Relative Chance** (Exeter 2.20) NR: Ouintus Decimus

(Ascot 3.40)

Jackpot: not won (pool of £27,696,83 car-fied forward to Ascot (odby). Placepot: £2,405.70, Quadpot: £194,10. Place 6: £274,55. Place 6: £116,91.

NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM

2.15: L FORECAST (P Robusson) 50-2;
2. Pride Of Whalley 9-4 for; 3. The Frielry
Farmer 6-1. 16 rate. nt., 1½, U Whomon,
Melton Monotoyh. Tote: £33.50; £5.30,
£1.40, £2.40. DF: £121.20, CSF: £170.13.
Inc: £157.40. NR: Rogue Irador.
2.45: £. ALMASI GOURING 10-1; 2. Meld
O'Cannie 4-1 for; 3. Merrie Le Bow 33-1;
4. Foresetty Less 14-1. 21; rat. ½, nt. (C
Wolf, Newmarket). Tote: £9.10; £3.00,
£1.60, £21.80, £6.60, DF: £24.20, CSF:
£60.34. Incest: £1.331.99, Inc: £438.60.
3.15: 1. MERROR FOUR LIFE (P Robniss). (50).34. Incest: £1,331.99. NO: £438.40.
3.15: 1. MeRROR FOUR LIFE (P Robison) 10-1: 2. Bold Welcome 16-1; 3. Elemental Partial 9-2: 9 ran. 5-2 for ligh Fixed (Mr.), £2.7. (M Tomplers, Noumaried). Total £11.40; £2.50, £2.40, £2.80, DF: £77.10.

ISF: £144.27. Tro: £74.50.
345: 1. ABEYR (P Robrison) 33-1; 2. Dawler 4-6 Erz 2. Lubebh 12-1 13 rate, Ni, str-bd. thi Janes, Newmarket). Tota: £27.40; £5.40, £1.10, £2.20. DF: £13.90. CSF: £55.34. Tro: £31.20.

4.16: 1. KNOS ASSEMBLY (G Hind) 7-2; 2. Harvey White 14-1; 3. Prize Pepil 16-1. 13 ran. 3-1 fev Obelos (4th). 1½, th. (P Harre, Berkhamster), Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £3.20, £2.50. DF: £73.00. CS: £53.18. The cast: £661.73. Tho: £113.80. Non Runner: New Albion.

4.45: 1. CUANGO (F Lynch) 12-1; 2. Opaque 11-2; 3. Chacasa 11-4 Tay, 4. Prusias 50-1, 20 ran. 14, 14, 14, R. Prusias 50-1, 20 ran. 14, 14, 14, R. Pottigened, Lipper Longton). Tota: £8.80: £1.80, £2.10, £1.40, £7.50. DF: £41.00. CSF: £88.77. Insect: £23.4 63. Tay: £50.00.

Cast: £231.61. Trio: £50.00. 5.15: 1. SAMARA (Pat Eddery) 2-1 fav; 2. 5.15: 1. SAMANA (PRI EDGE)) 2-1 187, 2. \$\frac{1}{4}\$. General Haven 25-1. 20 ran. 2. \(\frac{1}{4} \). Upurlog. Arundel). Tota: £2.50; £1.20, £4.00, £3.40, £4.20. OF: £25.20. CSF: £47.41. Triess: £282.84. Tro: £117.40. Placepot: £764.70. Quadpot: £38.90. Place 6: £612.71. Place 5: £215.14.

ASCOT fav; 2. Vicosa 4-1; 3. Cettic Silver 9-1. 7 ras. 3, sni-hd. (Mrs. J. Perman). Tota: £2.90; £1.90, £2.10. DF: £4.70, CSF: £10.30.

6,00: 1. NEWTON POINT (R Johnson) 11-6; 2. Absalom's Lady 10-1; 3. Clifton Set 7-4 tax. 7 cm. 20, 5. (D Nicholson). Totac £3.60; £2.10, £3.70, DF: £19.80, CSF: £25,58. Tricast: £53,57. Non Runner: Ger

225.58. Tricast: £53.57. Non Runner: Gen-eral Pongs. 8.30: 1. COULTON (J.A. McCarthy) 7-2; 2. Times Work 7-4; 3. Denning Paddy 8-1. 6 rain. 13-8 fav Storm Alen (47th. 4r., 3/r., (O Sherwood). Tota: £4.80; £2.00, £1.20. 67: £5.50. CSF: £9.71. 7.05: 1. FAUSTINIO (A PMCCor) 11-2; 2. Buckland Lad 4-1 ji tar; 3. Poly Americhan 15-2; £0 rain. 4-1 ji tar; 5. Poly Americhan 15-2; £0 rain. 4-1 ji tar; £m Singer, 5, 24: (P Hobbs). Tota: £5.20; £1.70, £1.90, £2.50. DF; £11.40. CSF: £25.87. Tricast; £150.94. OF: £11.40, CSF: £25.87, Tricast: £150.94

HUNTINGDON HUNT INVESTOR

5.46: 1. WILD RUISON (Air Rehad White)

8-11 fav; 2. Somolagjany 9-4: 3. Knocktummin: 14-1. 6 ram. 14-; 27. Alias J Progeon's Totas: 51-60; £1-00. £1-90. DF: 51-90.

CSF: £2-96.

8.15: 1. FATHER FORTINE [MSS]

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6-0; 6-3; 6-4; 7-6-2; 1

6.15: 1. FATHER FORTUNE IMES C TOWNSHY 1D-1; 2. Final Hope 2-11 fav; 3. Same Set 10-1. 4 van. 4, dst. (0 Hard, Totat 59.40. DF: £2.50. CSF: £12.82.

8.45: 1. COURT NAP (Mr P Scott) 5-2 pt ter; 2. Marble Man. 15-2; 3. Sight'n Sound 15-2, 16 van. 5-2 pt tax Lucky Tucky. 1c, 1. (S Melto), Totate £3, 70: £1.40. £1.50. £3.00. DF: £19.40. CSF: £23.02. Trac: £36.10. 7.15: 1. CARDEL £62.09 (Mr P Harburson) 12-1; 2. Tarry Awhille 14-1; 3. Making Time 9-1. 14 van. 3-1 km Cookawn Laby. 5-2. (P Harburson), Totate £12.70: £3.10. £3.80, £3.70. DF: £309.20. CSF: £164.21. Trice £208.40.

The stewards at Nottingham vesterday recorded the explanation an inquiry into the running and rid ing of the Mary Reveley-trained Duo Master. The three-year-old was dropped out at the start by Kevin Darley and appeared to be tenderly ridden before finishing 15th of 20. The stewards were told that the horse had an injury to his knees last season and that yesterday be hung go-ing to the start and sweated up. Darley's instructions were to settle the horse and let him get his confidence back. The jockey was able to drop in behind but in the final half mile be felt mable to let the horse down as was afraid it would stumble.

HYPERION 5.45 Adamstic 6.15 Movec 9.50 Wel Appointed 7.25 Off The Bru 8.00 Roy RACELINE





sport

Henman is the key to home revival

John Roberts meets Britain's No 1 tennis player who is reaping the benefits of a healthy rivalry

hey seem odd comrades, Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman. Born on the same date, a year and an ocean apart, the new Brit and the true Brit have given the Davis Cup team a pulse 12 months after the deathly retreat from Bratislava. A first-round tie against Slovenia

in the Euro/African Zone Group Two on an indoor court in Newcastle at the weekend is unlikely to distract the Toon Army from ruminating over the destiny of the Premiership, but in national tennis terms it represents progress.

This time last year, Henman's promotion to singles coincided with the lowest point in the team's history, a 5-0 whitewash on the slow clay of the Slovak

Republic leading to the brink of Group the Fourth Division of a competition inaugurated in 1900 benchmark to as a sociable tussle between the United me, somebody States and Britain. Three events to look up to conspired

Britain's favour: the high-profile David Lloyd took over as the team captain, the highly ambitious Rusedski forsook Canada for his mother country (to be precise, the country where his mother was born), and when it came to a relegation play-off in July, Monaco were as out of place on the Eastbourne lawns as the Brits usually are than it has for quite a few years." on everyone else's patch of clay.

Three more victories and we'll be on the road to... well, to Euro/African Zone Group One. But the Davis Cup is only part of it. By welcoming Rusedski with an open mind and in a spirit of rivalry, rather than the rancour of one or two of his British colleagues, Henman did himself a huge favour.

The 21-year-old national champion from Oxford has used Rusedski as a stalking horse, and on Monday, he nosed four places in front of him No 54. Before we know it, Britain could have two men in the top 50. Last time the Lawn Tennis Association was able to scan the ranking list with eyes so high was in July, 1978, when Buster Mottram was the No 17 and John Lloyd No 27.

"I think if you look back at when Jeremy [Bates] was at the peak of his career, he never really had any-one else in this country really pushing him forward, somebody to compete against," Henman said. "But for me it was almost perfect

timing for Greg to arrive. "I can understand how other people maybe didn't really take to it so keenly, but I never had any problem with it, and he's been a very impor-

me, somebody to 'Greg's been a look up to and try and emulate in a lot very important of areas. He's been sort of a target of mine. It's inevitable that I am going to have weeks where I don't play as well as I'd like to. If at the same time Greg can have a good week,

there's still going to be something positive for British tennis. the guys in the top 15 in this country have improved their ranking. So there's definitely a buzz about things, and it does look healthier

That much is encouraging for David Felgate, the former tour professional who travels as Henman's coach and also has wider responsibilities as the manager of the men's national training department for the Lawn Tennis Association. Rumblings. however, threaten to destabilise the situation. The question has been raised whether it is practicable for Felgate to devote so much time to one

player while running a department. Henman is confident Felgate will remain by his side. "David's a hell in the world rankings, advancing to of a lot more than just a coach," he



Photograph: Chris Cole/Empics

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emphasised. "He's a great friend who I can talk to and discuss virtually everything about my career. He's been the most important person in my career, so long may it continue.

"Obviously if you look at it bluntly, he does have two pretty major jobs, and I think a lot of people have ques-"Greg's arrival on the scene has made a big difference, and most of From my point of view I am very happy with the way things are, and I've been anxious not to change something that for me is working very well."

The significance of coaches is

largely in the minds of players. Some of the leading competitors, Boris Becker for example, seem to change their coach as often as their shirt. "It's more a question, I think, of horses for courses," Henman said. "Some of the top guys do seem to switch coaches quite regularly and it doesn't seem to matter so much to them. The reason why they do that I don't know, but that's not the way I'd work." Much has been made of Hen-

man's middle-class background, which would only be an impediment if he lacked the hunger to succeed. wooden one. The dynasty can be England Club. Tim's father, Tony, traced to the turn of the century, to a solicitor, has played tennis, hock-Henman's great-grandmother, Ellen Stawell-Brown, credited with being the first woman to serve overarm at Wimbledon. Apparently her technique was a high toss and a spin of the body before hitting the ball.

Ellen married a Berkshire doctor, and one of their three children, Susan, is reckoned to be the last woman to serve underaum at Wimbledon. "As the story goes," Henman recalled, "my great-grandmother told my grandmother an overarm serve was a bit strenuous and told her to stick to serving underarm."

Susan's husband, Henry Billington, was a Wiltshire farmer who played for the Davis Cup team and made 15 appearances at Wimbledon, giving Donald Budge a decent game in the second round in 1938, when the American was en route to the first Grand Slam.

Three Billington children played at junior Wimbledon. One of them, Jane, is Tim's mother. She has represented Berkshire and Oxford-

ey, squash and cricket for Oxfordshire and football for Headington United (now Oxford United).

Tim, the youngest of three brothers, tends to take the family history for granted, except when visitors are shown the sepia photographs. "From their attire it doesn't look like they're ready to play tennis, that's for sure."

It will come as no surprise that the player Henman admires most is the exemplary Stefan Edberg, and it so happens that the personable youngster has a couple of things in com-mon with the Swede. Aside from owing much to the coaching of an Englishman (Tony Pickard in Edberg's case), both have been in trouble for whacking balls in frustration.

Ten years ago Edberg was fined \$350 (£232) during a tournament in Los Angeles. He had intended to strike the ball harmlessly into the net, but it zoomed between a couple of line judges. Edberg's confession to the seamy side of his past has become something of a party piece ("I'm still

paying off the fine," is the punchline). Henman's experience was chastening. It will be difficult to live down his action at Wimbledon last summer, when he became the first player in the Open era to be disqualified by the All England Club after accidentally hitting a ball-girl in the head. While it would be wrong to sug-

gest umpires have come to suspect Henman of being trigger-happy, he was penalised a point during last month's Lipton Championships in Florida after twice hitting a ball in anger. "Obviously I was very concerned at Wimbledon about the whole thing, because it was so unexpected and to be defaulted was a great shock to me," he said.

"But it's not something I'm reck-oning on doing again. With regard to Lipton, I think that was probably the first time I've ever had a because I know I don't have a problem with that. If other people do try and make a meal of it, that's up to them."

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Although he caught the odd

glimpse of Fred Perry wandering about Wimbledon, Henman never got to meet the greatest English player, who died in February 1995. Rather than be inhibited by Perry's

record, however, he views it as an

inspiration. When I've been growing up, coming through in junior tennis, it's almost been used as a negative against us," he said. "It's always been reported that we haven't had a Wimbledon champion since Fred Perry, emphasising how poor the standard of British tennis has been. But I think it's something I've tried to use as a positive to spur me on to try and achieve whatever I can in

the game.
"People do start putting labels on your head about being the next British hope, as it were, but I've never had a problem with dealing with warning barring Wimbledon, so it's that. I've always remembered, with not something I'm concerned about, the help of people around me, that the help of people around me, that I ve just got to concentrate on what I do best. If I keep working and do the things that I've done, then I'm sure that I will continue to have good

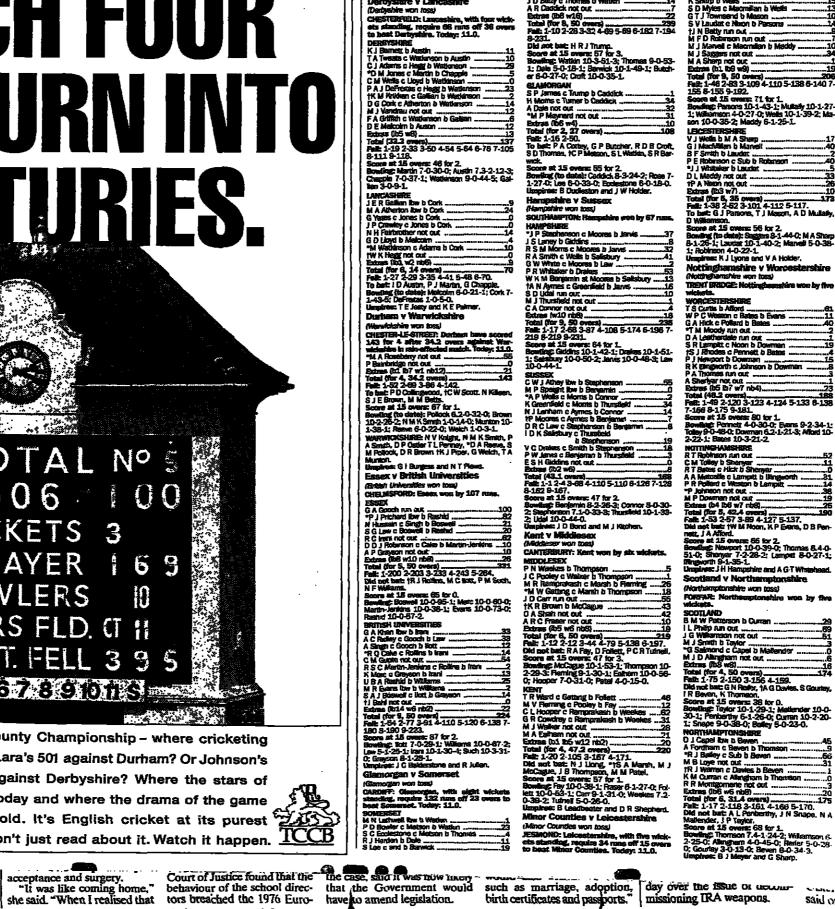
WATCH FOUR CENTURIES.

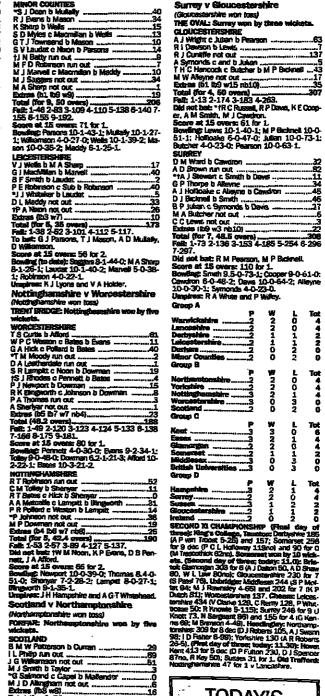


The Britannic Assurance County Championship - where cricketing history is made. Remember Lara's 501 against Durham? Or Johnson's 10 wickets in one innings against Derbyshire? Where the stars of tomorrow make their name today and where the drama of the game has a full four days to unfold. It's English cricket at its purest and it starts on 2nd May. Don't just read about it. Watch it happen. TCCB









TODAY'S NUMBER

1,169

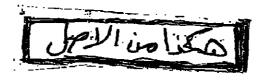
The price of a season ticket in Old Trafford's new "executive area". Manchester United are offering 2,300 seats in their new stand at £995 plus VAT, but in the old stand last term, a season ticket in the same spot cost only £340.

PUST CODE ... *Plus a once only entoiment lee of £9.50 walved if you join by Direct Debit. Cars registered before 31 '7.86' are subject to additional fee of £12.50. Prices valid until 6/5,'96.

COUNTY

have to amend legislation.

said one ministerial source.



Training is more rigorous, but it should be possible for De Glanville to captain Bath, play for England and keep his day job

The conflict between the Rugby Football Union and the profes- my comprehension.

and county championships is beyond in this country by building a prosional clubs is one in which onlookers seem to feel the need to take sides. It is almost like a matrimonial break-up, where the couple's friends take the part of one spouse or the other, often, in so doing, bringing about quarrels in their own mar-riages because husband and wife cannot agree whose side to take in

somebody else's troubles. I feel under no such obligation in the dispute between the RFU and the clubs. This does not prevent me from holding strong view. Thus, on the one hand, I think the structure proposed by the RFU crazy. I am with the union only on promotion and relegation this season, hard though this may be for some chibs. But its attachment to the divisional

Even sillier is the proposal for an Anglo-Welsh league for the lower clubs in the respective first divisions. For what the ordinary English or Welsh follower wants is to see Bath, Harlequins, Leicester and Wasps playing Cardiff, Llanelli, Neath and Swansea regularly - though one or two of these clubs might, of course have to drop out, according to national league tables, to make way for, say, Pontypridd or Sale.

On the other hand, the newly professional clubs are equally foolish to believe that rugby can or should support a fully professional structure, in the sense that every player in the First and Second Divisions - or even in the First Division alone - takes home a living wage at the end of the

fessional structure on a base which cannot honestly support it.

There is no need whatever for

rugby to go down this particular path; not least because a game lasts for 80 minutes rather than for three or four days. Though training is more rigorous than it used to be, and higher standards of strength, speed and stamina are required, it should still be possible for Phil de Glanville to captain Bath, play for England and keep his day job. I can under-stand why Dean Richards is taking a temporary rest from his traffic ties. But I hope Tony Underwood has not made a mistake in relinquishing his financial career to take Sir John Hall's shilling. Instead of going on about these

on rugby

matters, I should have liked to de-

vote the whole column to dishing out end-of-season awards of one kind or another. In the space remaining, here are a few. Team of the season Northampton. Runners-up: Bath. Once again, Bath supporters may to their club, but they were starting from a position of strength and carried on from there, playing some highly accomplished rugby in the course of their journey - though Saracens, the unluckiest side in the First Division, would have beaten them at Southgate if they had possessed even a half-way decent kicker. Mike Catt deserves a mention for

recovering from the nearly disastrous start he made for England against South Africa at outside-half. He then switched to full-back but, in the last couple of months, has proved himself to be, by a long way, the best out-side-half in England, outclassing Paul Grayson of Northampton -(even though the two have not, as far as I know, been directly opposed to each other).

win the team of the season award. It took a lot of character to recover from relegation by playing rughy that was not only successful but attractive as well. Ian McGeechan gets the coaches' award too, with the runnerup Dick Best, for implanting some backbone into his gifted though often wayward charges.

The player of the season is Rob Wainwright, with Robert Howley as runner-up, of whom Welsh supporters have been asking: "Why hasn't he been in the side for the last five years?" Props rarely win awards. but there are special mentions for Darren Garforth, who ought to have been in the England team, and Gary Halpin, who did not want to be in the Irish side. There are

However, it is Gravson's club who ling, who had his best season for years in difficult personal circumstances, and for Gregor Townsend, who might or might not have scored for Scotland against England if he had simply carried on running.

There were several promising newcomers in addition to Howley: notably Lawrence Dallaglio (if, that you count him as a newcomer), Leigh Davies, Gwyn Jones, Simon Mason and Jon Sleightholme.

I am giving the award to Mason, who came from nowhere to end up as the most solid-looking full-back in the Five Nations, almost like a full-back from an earlier era. The others all share the runner-up award, which I hope sends them away happy after what has not been the happiest of seasons for rugby in the British Isles.

Arsenal fear the power of Fowler

North London club's pursuit of Uefa Cup place threatened by new England striker

Arsenal fear the predatory finishing instincts of Liverpool's new England marksman Robbie Fowler could could come between them and a place in European competition when

Liverpool visit Highbury tonight. Fowler and his England team-mate Steve McManaman have persuaded Liverpool's manager, Roy Evans, to think again about his original intention to rest them for the trip. Evans is aware he could face criticism from Everton - plus

Victory over the FA Cup finalists will virtually ensure the Gunners fifth place in the Premiership and a place in Europe. minder of past failures. Last season, his last-minute winner at Highbury put Arsenal briefly in the shadow of relegation and they subsequently needed to win two of their final three Pre-

miership matches to be safe. ainst the Gunners at Anfield in December, and on Arsenal's previous visit he registered the Premiership's fastest-ever treble scoring his goals in just over four minutes. In addition, he will be keen to show the England coach, Terry Venables, that he has not

lost his touch. "Robbie and Steve are still just young lads who have taken a lot out of themselves with so many recent matches," Evans said. "If I decide it is right to leave them out. I'll do it but they both want to play."

His opposite number, Bruce Rioch, admitted: "Fowler has hurt Arsenal a lot - maybe this time we ought to tackle him in the tunnel before we go out

The England captain, David Platt, was preparing for some hard work in Arsenal's midfield. "There is no way that Liverpool are just going to lie down and let us get the win we need. Some people might think they will have one eye on the FA Cup final and will take their foot off the pedother Uefa Cup-place chasers al in the last couple of League - if he fields a weakened team. alim the last couple of League matches, but I don't believe that.

"Their professional pride won't allow it and we know we'll have to earn the points. But it is very important to us to get but Fowler's return to north into the Uefa Cup because tradition at Arsenal for a number of years now. Heads were down after we went out of the Coca-Cola Cup in the semi-final at Aston Villa a couple of months ago, but we've picked iership matches to be safe.
Fowler also scored a hat-trick things up again quite well and are still in the driving seat for

the last Uefa Cup place." Only Tottenham, two points behind, can overhaul Arsenal if the Gunners win tonight, and their north London neighbours finish the season with tough away trips to Leeds tomorrow and Newcastle on Sunday, while Arsenal meet the old chib of their manager. Bruce Rioch, relegated Bolton, at

Highbury on the final day.

Top scorer lan Wright, though, is doubtful for tonight's match having pulled a grom muscle after scoring at Blackburn on Saturday.



Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz (left) drives on Portland Trail Blazer Cliff Robinson during game three of the first round NBA Western Conference play-off in Oregon. Portland won 94-91 and trail 2-1 in the best of five series Photograph: AP

Photograph: AP

HQ hat-trick for Leicester pack

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

The Leicester forwards will complete a remarkable hat-trick in Saturday's Pilkington Cup final against Bath when they appear together for the third time in four years at the Twickenham showpiece, whose attendance this year will be

This will be the biggest sporting crowd in Britain this weekend and a world record for a rugby union club match, exceeding the 68,000 present to see the same finalists two years ago. Last Saturday Bath relieved Leicester of the Courage Championship.

The same Leicester eight who faced Bath in 1994 and Harlequins in 1993 will be augmented by three of the backs who played in '94 whereas Bath, who have injury problems, will have only eight of those who beat the Tigers two years ago. Even so they will field 12 internationals - nine English and three Scottish - to Leicester's six, who include the Irish standoff Niall Malone, preferred to Jez Harris.

John Wells has been passed fit after a back injury to return selection. West, Carbuck, W Drake-Lec.

to the Leicester back row, but Bath will be without two of their current England players, Jeremy Guscott (thigh) and Ben Clarke (ankle) - which in Clarke's case is likely to mean he has played his last game for the club. Richmond have a major announcement to make next

Other absent Bath internationals include Victor Ubogu and Simon Geoghegan, neither of whom has participated in the First Division run-in. However, Phil de Glanville. Andy Nicol and Graham Dawe have all been passed fit, and at prop Dave Hilton has withstood the strong challenge of Kevin

England's Third Division clubs yesterday pledged their support to the Rugby Football Union in the negotiations with First and Second Division clubs that resume in London today over how the professional game will be run and financed.

r: J Lifey; S Hackney, S Porter, i

Modahl runs 800m

Athletics

Diane Modahl will have her first track race for 21 months at a UK Women's League match in

Edinburgh on Saturday. The former Commonwealth champion, cleared of all drugs charges last month, is to run an 800 metres followed by a second

string 400m for her club, Sale. It will be a significant step in Modahl's comeback, which she hopes will lead to a place in the Atlanta Olympics. She has competed in cross-country and road

side, denied that his decision had any-thing to do with the team's performances,

Kevin Walker, the Pontypool winger and younger brother of Nigel Walker, has left the Second Division club for First Divi-

races, but not in her specialist event since failing to qualify for the 800m final at the European Championships in Helsinki in

August, 1994. The 29-year-old is planning some low-key races before stepping up to a 600m at the Welsh Games at Cardiff on 25 May, followed by 800m races at European meetings in Hengelo and Bratislava.

Modahl, who has made herself available for Britain's European Cup team in Madrid. said: "I'm excited to be competing again."

Blundell back on the track

Motor racing

P# Britain's Mark Blundell flies out to the United States today to prepare for his comeback at the fastest track of them all on 26 May ~ just two months after fracturing his right foot in three places, writes Derick Allsop. The former grand prix driver

plunged into a wall in the Brazilian IndyCar race at Rio de Janeiro five weeks ago and had his lower leg in plaster until last week. But he is adamant he will be fit enough to compete in the US 500 at the Michigan Spcedway.

He convinced himself he could face the ordeal after a test session at the awesome oval last week. He plans more running in his PacWest car before tackling qualifying on 11 May.

Blundell, who crashed in when I got back in the car. That to race at the Brickyard.

is, after all, the fastest track. You average 230mph. It was my first sight of it, 18 degrees of banking and all. It's amazing. "But my confidence came

back and I got to 218mph without really pushing. I walked away, my head held high, knowing I was still a racing driver.

What made it difficult was that I'd never broken a bone in my life and I'd had five weeks to think about it. I couldn't get

it out of my mind and come to terms with it. I was lucky to walk away from the accident let alone talk about it. But at least we found out it was a componeut failure that left me with no brakes."

The US 500 is being held in direct competition with the traditional "500", at Indianapolis, following a row between organising bodies. It means the only his second IndyCar outing, said: "I was a bit apprehensive leaving a field of second-raters

Mistral blows itself out

The Grand Mistral round the world race due to start from Marseille in September will not now take place, writes days of meetings, the two French regions backing the running of the race and the banks funding the building of eight identical man yachts have decided to postpone the event. No

The brainchild of the Swiss ocean racer Pierre Pehlmann, which starts from Southampton in September 1997. Fehlmann planned to charter the yachts to syndicates, but only two syndicates, one from his long-time starts in September.

backer Philip Morris and one from Nicorette, have signed. The income from these two

have been moulded. While Whitbread, which has rejected a merger, did not want to comment, there was clear the race was seen as a rival to relief at the race headquarters the Whithread, the seventh of near Southampton. It will also mean less competition for attention for the amateur round the world voyage, the BT Global Challenge, which also

Karress City 6. NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 2 Houston Atlanta 4 St Louis 1; New York Mets 3 Mo Breal 2; Los Angeles 10 Chicago Cubs 4.

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1. Brentford v Bournemouth

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SPORTING DIGEST NBA FIRST ROUND PLAY-OFFS: Eastern Con-ference: Atoms 90 Indiann 83 (Atoms teat best-of-the series 2-1), Western Combination: Purcent 94 Upps 92 (Julya Heart best-of-the series 2-1).

Lance Hobson, the former Australian tance house, the torner Australian featherweight champion who collapsed during a fight on Monday night, died yesterday. According to the hospital the 23-year-old died of complications after sustaining a brain haemormage during the fight against Liu Gang, of China. Cricket

Lescestershire plan to make the retiring Test umpire. Dickie Bird, an honorary life member of the county. He played for the Grace Road club from 1,960 to 1,964. The British Darts Organisation has announced that up to 50 women will be invited to compete next December in the qualifying competition for the Embassy World Championships which are to be staged at the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, Surrey, from 4-12

Kristine Gifford has withdrawn both her horses, General Jock and Midnight Blue, from the Badminton Mitsubishi Horse Tnals which begin tomorrow. Three other top British horses have been withdrawn during the last ten days: Get Smart (Karen Deon), Cosmopolitan II (William Fox-Pitt) and Mr Maciennon (tan Stark).

Bristol Rovers have agreed a deal to share Bristol's rugby union ground next ternational striker, is to undergo surgery on a troublesome ankle problem and will not be fit for Leeds' final two match-

Edicile May, manager of Torquay, resigned yesterday after just six months in charge. yesterday after just six months in charge, He said: "I'm very disappointed to fin-ish bottom of the feague, i'm a winner and that's what I wented here at Torquay, Unfortunately it didn't work out." Fabio Capello, the Milan coach, has con-firmed in an Italian newspaper interview that he will be moving to Real Madrid

Bebeto, the Brazilian striker, is to leave the Spanish League side Deportivo La Coruna, managed by former Welsh boss John Toshack, to move back to his homeland and join the Flamengo club

hormeland and join the Flamengo club in Rio de Janeiro.

MOMENTS LATE RESELTS: FA Carling Prareleasely: Leeds O Newcastle 1. 684 Vendenil
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Third Division: Lincoln 4 Rochdislo C; Seumborge O Buy 4; Stockpott 3 Streenbury 0, American
In-

Second Division

50 Clyde v Queen of South

R3. Stenhousemuit v Forfer

51 East File v String... 52 Montrose v Strenge

49 Bernick v Ayr.

Third Division

St Helens have agreed to play London Broncos at home in the Super League on Sunday 12 May, not away, so mig-inally scheduled, because the Broncos' landiords, Charlton, could be involved in a First Division play-off at The Velley that weekend. The match will lock off at 6pm and be televised live on Sky. Rugby Union

Peter Jones has resigned as coach of re-egisted Abertillery after the club finished bottom of the Heinelsen League First Di-vision. The ex-Newbridge forward who spent three years in charge of the Gwent

(7.45 unless states)
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Amental v Liverpool ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Football

Rugby League

ons. Soain, to win their four-match se

Rouses O Assersal 1: Christica 1: Southarmon O; Liston A Ipsakeh 1: Odord Urd 1 Christes 1: Sem-sion 1 Bassal Clay 1: Worthof 2 Ionestrem 1: Sec-ead Division: Bernangham 2 Swansea 2: Christianiam 1 Pymouth 1: European Under-18: Greenplanship (Visional): Group 8: Reland 1 Ara-tia O; Portugal 3 Poland 0: Group 8: Greeco 2 Germany 1: Romana 0 Usrame 1: Group C: Trance 2 Croston O; Spein 4 Switzskard 1, Group D: Turfley 3 Israel 0: Ernsland 2 Shazakin 0 Steve Kerry, the former rugby league play-er. Kerry made 133 first team appear-ances for Preston and souce 905 points before signing for Salford back in 1988. He now returns to the Lancashire side Great Britain ended their seven-match pre-Olympic tour in Atlanta yesterday with a thrilling victory over the Olympic champi-He now returns to the Lancashire side as a player with some coaching duties.

SHOUTHER! HERBORN WORLD CHAMPHONSHUP (Sheffield) Section river by Morgan (Mell In K Donstry (Mell In S.5. P. Blood leng) by J. White (Eng. 13.1.2. Quastion-Resalt: S Hendry (Sco.) Reads D Morgan (Wol) 5-3 metain resumes Spon today; P Donor (Reads & Donst (Eng. 5-1 metain resumes 10.30)

Table tennis

Table teamls
EIROPEAN CHARRYONSHIPS (Bratistura,
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P: Betaus 4 Estunia û; Turkey 4 Wales 3. Group de Demmoth 4 Bosma Hecasgown, 0; Succentino 4 Portugal 3; Maita 4 Azerbayan 0.

Tennils

ATP TOURNAMENT (Munich) First round: H
Determann (Ger) bt A Conetja (Sp) 6-0 7-5: 8
Rafbacher (Gere) bt A Conetja (Sp) 6-0 7-5: 8
Rafbacher (Gere) bt A Gausterz (M 7-5 6-3: 5
Dosedel (Gere) bt O Compones (M 6-1 6-1)
6-6: H Gunny (Arg) bt N Lasson (Sp: 6-3: 6-3: 6-3)
6-4: H Gunny (Arg) bt R Lasson (Sp: 6-3: 6-4: 1) Music
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(Aug) bt S Persocation (M 6-1 6-1: 1 M Gottern
(Ger) bt W Ferrora (SA) 6-3 6-4.

ATAT CHALLEMEE MENT'S TOURNAMENT (Aslastic) First round: F Molegon (Bolt bt J Parmer
(US) 6-2 7-6: N Looseore, (Beh bt G. Elis (Arg)
(C-6 6-4 6-4: N Alorne (Mex) bt L A Moregon (Ecu)
(7-6 3-6 6-3: M Telbourt (Aus) bt J Apell (See
6-3 6-4: D Cource) first bt Leven (US) 6-4 2.

MARKSURG WOMEN'S OPEN Freier (1906) 1 pound:

TODAY'S FIXTURES November v Milheali (7.30); Southarmaton v Bris-tol Rovers (7.30); Wartipledon v Arsenal (2.0), JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier DIVI-JOHN FRAIN TESTIMONIAL: Birmington City

sions Claston v Wigherty Comand v Falen-ham; Scham Yown v Great Yannouth; Sudbury Wanderses v Watters. Wanderers v Western.

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Blockburn v Strike (7.0); Botton v Birminghum City (7.0); Deby v West, Bromsvich (7.0); Leeds v Nottinghum Forest (7.0); Menchester Unis v Ismmere (7.0); Sheffield Wechesday v Oldnem (7.0); Baccoad Division: Astor Villo v Hull (7.0); Baccoad Division: Astor Villo v Hull (7.0); Sunderland v Rothesham (7.0); York v Manchester City (7.0); Third Division: Derlingdon v Chester (6.30); Doncaster v Majash (7.0); Scarbor-ough v Shreeshay (7.0); Sourtholpe v Carlisle (7.0); Sockport v Lincoln (6.45); Wresham v Chesterfield (7.0).

Speedway MAKER LEAGUE: Hut v Scottish Monarchs. (7.30); Pools v Belic Vue (7.30), CHALLENGE: Long Eaton v Peterborough

> Other sports southfulder: Embacsy World Champ

TENNIS: LTA Spring Soletina

Æ,

A VITAL PIECE OF CRICKET EQUIPMENT. THE BOX.

A full guide to cricket on TV. Just one of the innovations in the new-look WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY

syndicates was not enough to cover the continued building of the fleet of yachts, in what was Stuart Alexander After three a job creation project at the moribund shipyard of La Ciotat, between Marseille and Toulon. Work will continue on the first four boats, but not the remaining three hulls which

12 York v Blacksooi Teled Divisi 1.3 Barnet v Fulham 14 Bury v Cardiff. 15 Cambridge Util V Leyton Orient. 17 Colchester v Doncaster 18 Gillingham v Scarborougi 19 Hereford v Rochdele 22 Preston v Exerci

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE Endsleigh League First Division BM Verxhall Conference Not on coopens: Barnsley v Grimsby; Sheffield Utd v Port Vale. 25 Albincham v Dag & Red ... 27 Dover v Gateshead ... 29 Kamering v Stalybridge 31. Morecembe v Króderminster

33 Slough v Runcom ... 35 Wolding v Southport icis League Premier Division Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

39 Aberdeen v Falkitk 40 Cattic v Raith 41. Hibernian v Partick 42. Klamarnock v Rangers 43 Motherwell v Hearts First Division 44 Dundee v St Johns 45 Duniermine v Airdne 47 Hamiton v Dumberton

54 Altoa v Cowdenbe 56 Catedonian T v Lyingston 57 East Stirling v Brechin. 58 Ross County v Queen's Pank

PLAYING SURBANT: FA Curling Precelerable:
Arsansi v Botton: Chesses v Blackburn; Chessy v Leets; Everton v Aston Villa; Man City v
Liverpoot Middleshriugh v Man Unit; Naucastie
v Tomanister, North Forest v OPR; Southampton v Wimbleston; West Harm v Sheff Wed.
Endsleigh Insurance League First Division:
Briningham v Reading Cherton v Witherhampton; Crystal Palace v Norwot; Huddershed v Potsmouth; Issach v Millack; Odhean
v Luton: Stoke v Southend; Trammere v Sundefand; Wetford v Lacester; West Brom v Derby. 58 Ross County y Queen's Park

Five amoyer Crows. Denington, Rangers, Stran-raer, Brechin. Ten bonses: Oxford United, Watsulf, Gilling-ham, Preston, Altrincham, Tellord, Wolsing, Celtic, Qualismane, Berwick

Innufeh v Hussierufield EUROPEAN UNDER-15 CHAMPIONSHIP (Austria) Group D: England v Tudley (4,30). ICIS LEAGUE Pression Division: Harrow Borough v Hayes (7.30), Flast Divisions Abing-oon Town v Maidenhead United. BÉAZER HOMES LEAGUE Mildand Division: Dudley v Stoerfordge: Paget Rangers v Sur-ton Coldfield, Southern Division: Farchern v Brantine; Yate Town v Fisher 93. UNUROND LEAGUE First Division: Wo

> sat: Brjeg v Be LEAGUE OF WALES: First Town v Connain's

WINSTONLISAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions Slade Green v Herne Bay.

v Asmon; Farsiey v Lincoin United, HERMANNO UNITED COUNTRES LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Raunds v Storloid. GREAT MRUS LEAGUE Premier Division: Tearing v Margolasia, PEDERATION BRESWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE Flact Division: Guisdorugh v Consett Whithy v Petadee, NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Density United v Liversedge; Hucknet Town v Hallam, President's Cup Flack Press Brises V Ballary.

AAON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Queen's Park Ranges v Brighton (2.0); Bristol City v Westjord (7.30); Chemon v Portemouth (7.0); Luton v Swindon (7.30);

THE RAPID RISE OF TIM HENMAN John Roberts on Britain's new tennis hope

Keegan in danger of cracking under the strain

Alex Ferguson was not saying much yesterday, but the Manchester United manager did not need to. The title race may still be running but, judging by Kevin Keegan's televised out-burst on Monday night, the psychological battle has already

The victor is Ferguson, a master of the art after five years of championship run-ins. Keegan, fresh to the pressures and wearing his desire on his sleeve, appears close to crack-

on Monday night after New-castle's 1-0 win at Leeds, it was the way he said it. His eyes were bright with emotion, his finger jabbed at the camera and his assion was raw and unchecked.

The Newcastle manager appeared to accuse Ferguson of provoking Leeds' bold performance on Monday by comments he made after Leeds lost at Manchester United the previous week. He then appeared to link Ferguson with rumours that Nottingham Forest were

their vital Premiership clash tomorrow in return for being the opposition for Stuart Pearce's testimonial next week. The rumours were vehemently dismissed by Frank Clark, the

Nottingham Forest manager. Ferguson did accuse Leeds players of "cheating" their man-ager after their efforts at Old Trafford. His remarks were widely interpreted as an attempt to ensure Leeds were as committed against Newcastle as they were

It was not just what he said prepared to let Newcastle win Gienn Moore on the winners and losers in the Premiership's psychological war

> lic comment about Newcastle's them - which is not to say his match with Nottingham Forest, or made representations behind the scenes. That accusation has, privately, angered Ferguson, but his overall mood on hearing Keegan must have been one of quiet satisfaction.

While Ferguson is equally

just that he knows how, and when, to express them.

sentiments are not genuine,

Keegan is still learning this game. A few weeks ago he won widespread admiration for the magnanimous way he took the last-minute defeat at Liverpool, and the equanimity he showed prone to outbursts, there is in similar circumstances at

has gone to ground, talking at length only to a tabloid news-paper, which pays him handsomely. His anxiety and his distress at the prospect of losing a championship Newcastle had in their hands at Christmas, cannot help but communicate itself

to the players.

After Manchester City, a club facing pressures of a different kind, won at Aston Villa on Saturday, Alan Ball stressed how important it was for the

B&H CUP: Kent dominant, Derbyshire resurgent and Surrey batsman rampant

"The top man has to be strong," he said. "You have to handle these situations. The players are looking to you. If you have an Achilles heel, if there is the slightest hint of desperation, they will pick up on it."

There is more than the slightest hint of it about Keegan. His reliance on motivation rather than tactics, coupled with his present mood - his parting shot on Monday was, "I tell yer, I'll love it if we beat them, love it" - brings fear that his next pre-

bewitches

Middlesex

match talk will be more Ally MacLeod than Bill Shankly. Before then, he has a decision to make which will require a cool head. David Ginola is available tomorrow. Keegan has said he will play, but does he drop Faustino Asprilla, his expensive misfit, or Keith Gill-

espie, Monday's matchwinner? nager on Sunday. He dropped the big signing and reaped the harvest. But, somehow, you sus-

problems against Thompson as

he moved the ball away from the

right-hander off the seam and

bowled a good line. Last year

Thompson dismissed Brian Lara for a "pair" when the West Indies played Kent and

now he took three for 11 in his

belatedly consolidated by a typ-

ically determined if unglam-

orous innings from John Carr and Keith Brown. They were

then taken passed 200 by some

wonderfully fluent stroke play

from 17-year-old Owais Shah

who was born on Karachi. He

on-drove Martin McCague for

a six with an ease Hooper would

have envied. Shah is a young

Kent's innings with three thun-

derous fours and then Trevor

Ward, who grew in confidence, Hooper and Graham Cowdrey

took them close to victory.

Hooper's off-drive for six off

David Follett was the stroke of

the day and the product of glo-

rious timing for he hardly ap-

in 19 overs before Ward drove

Follett to backward point. Cow-

drey now helped Hooper add 62

in 14 overs before got out in

quick succession. Mark Eal-

ham who drove Phillip Tufnell

Hooper and Ward put on 85

peared to hit the ball.

son who won the gold award. for a huge six, saw Kent home

Cork turns tables

Rather surprisingly, on a with 16 balls to spare.

Matthew Fleming started

man with an unusual talent.

The Middlesex innings was

first six overs.

One-match ban and fine for Asprilla

MARK BURTON

Newcastle United brought up the big guns to defend Faustino Asprilla before a Football Association disciplinary commission in a Leeds hotel yesterday but in the event they need hardly have bothered.

The Colombian striker was found guilty on two misconduct charges that followed his tangles with Manchester City's Keith Curle during a Premiership match at Maine Road in February, but he escaped with a onematch ban, at the start of next two miles from the Goldstone. season, and a fine of £10,000.

Newcastle's concern about the possible consequences for their record £7.5m signing from Parma of a case that had been delayed by nine weeks was clear in the size of their delegation to preter and Newcastle's manag-

er, Kevin Keegan. The club's solicitor, Stephen Hornsby, questioned the commission's right to view video evidence of two incidents over which the referee, Martin Bo-

Brighton are to stay at the Goldstone Ground for a further 12 back deal for an undisclosed fee with Chartwell Land, the ground's new owners. The club. now relegated to the Third Division, want to build a £32m stadium at Toad's Hole Valley, about

denham, took no action. In the first, Asprilla appeared to elbow Curle as the defender pulled him back, and in the other, at the end of the game, the Colombian appeared to butt the the hearing. It was seven strong, including Asprilla, his inter- a linesman standing close by. Manchester City captain, with

Anderton has reaction

Darren Anderton may miss another chance to show the England coach Terry Venables he is still a realistic contender for a

The Tottenham manager, Gerry Francis, is "reluctantly" considering leaving him out of tomorrow's Premiership game fielder reported stiffness and soreness following his first full game for nearly eight months. Anderton has had two groin

operations this season and, until Saturday's 1-1 draw with Chelsea, had managed only four first-team starts.

Engaging In the Bentley

ACROSS Dead to the world, like re-tired PM (6)

Turkey on a plate, cooked

11 In Redear a boy parades a

12 Primitive insect girl paints with abandon (10)

15 Shoe-winer in front of

horse (4)

Tropic island with grain on 23

He is still hoping to be called into Venables' European Championship party and wants to be part of the two-match trip to China and Hong Kong on 19 May - just 10 days before Venables

must name his final squad of 21. "It is asking a lot of him to play Saturday, Thursday, Sun-Francis said. He did well to last the full 90 minutes against Chelsea but it's obvious he's still not yet the Darren Anderton of last season. You couldn't expect it. If he doesn't play on Thursday he could play at Newcastle on Sunday - or vice versa."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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headed by the Lincoln chairman John Reames, took legal advice - their senior lawyer Raj Parker outlined the FA case - before rejecting that challenge, and a video of the elbowing incident as then shown three times.

After the four-hour hearing, the FA spokesman Steve Double announced that Asprilla had been found guilty of both elbowing and butting Curle, who was cleared of his charge of behaving in an "aggressive manner" after a subsequent

45-minute hearing.

"On the first charge [the elbow], the commission ruled that Mr Asprilla would pay part of the cost of the hearing, serve a one-match ban from the start of next season and be fined £10,000," Doubles said. "On the second charge, it was decided that no penalty would

Although the ban is short, the fine is the highest imposed by the FA for an on-field incident and matches the one levied on Eric Cantona for his attack on a fan at Selhurst Park last year. Neither Asprilla nor Keegan commented on the verdict.

Double said Newcastle's club

secretary, Russell Cushing, indicated the St James' Park board would seek legal advice before deciding on an appeal. off worse. Arsenal's Paul Davis was given a nine-match ban for breaking the jaw of the midfielder, Southampton Glenn Cockerill, off the ball in the late 1980s. A six-match ban would not have been surprising. Police raid ticket outlets, page 6

Relationship

you will discover the one ring which

Hooper's art reports from Canterbury Middlesex 219-6 Kent 220-4 (Kent win by six wickets) There are few better sights than watching Carl Hooper score runs. He is the most felicitous of strokemakers and his 62, which helped take Kent to a convincing victory over Middiesex, provided a lovely warm glow towards the end of a distinctly chilling day. So far this year, Middlesex have been out of sorts and having lost all three of their qualifying matches they are also already out of the last eight in the Benson and Hedges Cup. In the field, they seem strangely naked without the distinguished presence of John Emburey and the increasingly avuncular looking Mike Gatting, is at the moment a general of an army which lacks Kent, on the other hand. have now won all three of their

Alistair Brown, of Surrey, hits out during his innings of 82 yesterday

DAVID LLEWELLYN reports from The Oval

Gloucestershire 307-4 Surrey 308-7

Plan to leave America out-of brochure (8) Managed detectives' rank (b)
Tiller with course set around the meridian at

DOWN

2 Top parts of a prison, possibly? (7)
3 Cast out to give voice (4)

Quarters in opening of old royal house? (7) Tobacco addict – reckon his Ma is upset? (5-6)

Advertise big wig, say, that is good to take off (9) Salad in merry monarch's

18 Traveller has a go, very ex-

20 Using bad language, I have to follow a PSV (7)
21 British champion right to take a stiff drink? (6)
24 Shephond Elled in lake 17 Male, accomplished driver

CHASOUPER ANUAS
A B A A F A U
GASAU RAMANDOR
E I J S B B C
E I J S B B C
E I G M A
GOODIN ROOTSTER
A U A C E G
ROSETIA ACREAGE
N E I B O C
EMER ERUSIPEUMS
S R O S O H O II
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(5) Cloudburst in county trip

(8) Group-member and princi-

Kitty finds amusement by

in by speed (9)
27 Beam in through supplica-

28 Total contained in soft

nced by adjusting girth

day (4) 25 Balance

When you have the answers to the first three clues across AND the first three clues down phone 0891 311 017 and leave your answers with your name address and daytime telephone number by midnight tonight. Calls cost 39p per munute closup rate. 49p per minute all other times.

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Brown goes to town

(Surrey win by three wickets)

Dark mutterings at Surrey's decision to charge £10 to watch Benson and Hedges Cup crick-et at The Oval, compared with the more modest 16 charged north of the Thames at Lord's, were muted after another valuefor-money performance by Alec

Stewart and his merrier men. A second successive victory for Surrey, studded with some superlative batting from both sides, brightened a generally overcast day. Alistair Brown's devastating 17-ball blitz, which took him from 31 to 81, almost - but not quite - overshadowed a marvellous hundred from Gloucestershire's Rob Cunliffe in only his second

appearance in the connetition. Cunliffe's unbeaten 137. which took Gloucestershire to their highest total in the Cup, was all the more admirable ters and another would have reached Vauxhall Station had a stand not been in the way. He since the 22-year-old had to come in at an inglorious moment for Gloucestershire - first wicket down in the third over. The gold award was probably

poor consolation for Cunliffe. He played with the compo-sure of a veteran. In tandem with opener Tony Wright he helped put on 161 for the second wicket to make a match of it. He was there until the end. More than three hours of fine strokeplay and an outrageous shot or two, notably the second of his two sixes over the long-off boundary. when he removed his bottom

hand as he struck the ball. But Brown, following up his half-century at the weekend, naturally out-hit everyone. His 57-ball innings contained a variety of blows, with one thing in common - distance. One of his four huge sixes finished up in the road close to the gasomemoved from 31 (which took him 31 balls) to 81 in 17 deliveries and brought to mind the exploits of Sri Lanka's World Cup sensation, Sanath Jayasuriya.

Brown did much to lay the foundations for victory and enhanced his reputation as a possible for England's Texaco squad. He is regarded as a "pinch-hitter", although there is nothing pinched about the way he plays. He is generous, extravagant even, a true crowd pleaser with his stunning strokeplay.

When he went, run out with a century there for the taking, the cudgels were taken up by Adam Hollioake (45) and Darren Bick-nell (46). Ghosts of collapses past returned to haunt them briefly - three wickets falling with victory in sight - but thankfully the new regime has instilled some backbone in the team and they eased in with something to spare.

on Lancashire

group matches and even with-

out captain, Mark Benson, and

seam bowlers, Alan Igglesden

and Dean Headley who have an

assortment of injuries, are in

good working order and no

one more so than Hooper and

greenish pitch. Gatting chose to

reports from Chesterfield Derbyshire 137 Lancashire 70-6

Not for the first time in recent seasons, Dominic Cork pulled the rug from beneath Lan-cashire's feet just when they probably felt they had matters firmly under control yesterday.

In 11 deliveries of hostile, late outswing, Cork took four wick-ets for nine runs and suddenly Derbyshire's total of 137, the product of decidedly undistinguished batting, seemed defendable. Lancashire need 68 with four wickets remaining, to-

day's weather permitting. Lancashire left out their overseas player. Steve Elworthy, who had been expensive in recent matches. Even more unusual, given the ground's reputation for helping seam bowling first thing, was Dean

Jones's decision to bat. The ball unsurprisingly zoomed around, often at varying heights. Once Kim Barnett

selves out to Ian Austin, the innings became a remarkable chapter of mishaps. The chief beneficiary was Mike Watkinson, who, despite not always getting his line right, somehow emerged with 5 for 44, his best

figures in this competition. When Lancashire's reply was launched with a flurry of halfvolleys and other dross, batting seemed to be more straightforward. But Cork begged to differ and prised out Jason Gallian and

Gary Yates in his second over. Another perfectly pitched outswinger had John Crawley picked up at slip. Then Cork enloyed his one slice of luck when Mike Atherton, admittedly going across his stumps, was adjudged leg before. It was a marginal decision which left

Lancashire on 41 for 4. It became 48 for 5 when Graham Lloyd left a lot of dz/light between himself and a Devon Malcolm yorker. After a lengthy stoppage for rain. Derbyshire could hardly have fancied resuming with a wet ball. But Watkinson carved Cork's first delivery to slip to maintain the pat-

O'Sullivan back on his best behaviour

Snooker

GUY HODGSON reports from Sheffield

You would think that being branded "the bad boy of snooker" was bad enough, but Barry Hearn was inflicting more damage to Ronnie O'Sullivan. "He's a bit like Alex Higgins," he said, which would probably be actionable if he was not the manager of the sport's new enfant terrible and paid for the

It was the morning after O'Sullivan, 20, had been handed a record fine of £20,000 and given a two-year suspension, suspended for two years, for assaulting a press officer at The

Crucible, and Hearn was determined to herald the turning of a new leaf. Work was being done on the world No 3's image. "I told him," Hearn said, "this is a problem, let's get rid

tence over your head. Try to keep your nose clean. "He's a fiery lad at times, but that is one of the reasons he plays the way he does. Alex Hig-gins would not have been world champion if he had conformed.

of it. You have a two-year sen-

But I hope Ronnie tempers his temper, he is the most exciting player for several years."
O'Sullivan, meanwhile, was preparing for one of the most difficult appearances of his

had publicly apologised at mid-

night for his "out-of-character behaviour", he was due to face the second favourite, John Hig-gins. This would be a difficult enough proposition at the best of times, but after fearing he might be thrown out of the tournament it was a huge task

"What a day this is for him," the master of ceremonies, Alan Hughes, said introducing O'Sullivan, who, given the 24 hours he had just experienced, would probably have preferred a quiet spell in front of the television. Out he came, his head slightly bowed, to a reception that hit the right note. Not the misguided "rebel" roar that used to greet "the Hurricane" after his latest spat with the authorities, but muted, if warm, applause.

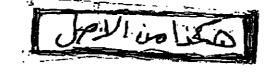
descended on the table. Both players had been mulling over whether they would have to play a match, but neither seemed affected. Indeed, the quality of the snooker in the first session was exemplary, barely an un-

forced error, just a cold, clinical dispatch of the balls. Higgins, as pale as Steve Davis and likely to pick up the mantle passed on by the great man once Stephen Hendry is finished with it, took the first frame with crisp breaks of 42 and 35. O'Sullivan struck back with a clearance of 32, and with further breaks of 52 and 51 es-tablished a 3-1 lead. His play suggested that he had been honing his potting since the

With that, an eerie normality second round instead of his legal

Higgins is the coming force in the sport and by the end of the first session he had a 5-3 lead. This included a total clearance of 137 that was so smooth a Rolls-Royce would have had more chance of breaking down.

Which is not what you could say about Hendry, who was 3-1 down at the interval of his session with Darren Morgan and playing like he had feared he would be ejected from the tournament. Eight frames without any spark from the world champion has the rarity of cue-ball sized diamonds, however, and at the end he was 5-3 ahead. Breaks of 55, 82, 92 and 63 were included in the fusillade.



Arms expe MI enc